LXXVIII

HAMIRPUR:

A GAZETTEER,

BEING

VOLUME XXII

OF THE

DISTRICT GAZETTEERS OF THE UNITED PROVINCES OF AGRA AND OUDH.

COMPILED AND EDITED

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ALLAHABAD:

Printed by F. Luker, Superintendent, Government Press, United Provinces.

1909.

Price Rs. 2-8 (3*s*. 9*d*.)

GAZETTEER OF HAMIRPUR.

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Litho., December, 1905—No. 600-662.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL FEATURES.

Boundaries and area.

The district of Hamirpur occupies the centre of that portion of the Allahabad division which lies south of the Jumna river and is known as British Bundelkhand; it is situated between the parallels of 25° 7′ and 26° 7′ north latitude, and 79° 17′ and 80° 21′ east longitude. If the Hamirpur pargana be disregarded, the shape of the district is a rough parallelogram with an average length from south to north of 56 miles, and an average breadth from east to west of 48 miles. On the west and north-west lie the districts of Jhansi and Jalaun and the independent states of Baoni and Beri, the boundary being formed throughout by the Dhasan and Betwa rivers. On the north flows the Jumna separating Hamirpur from the districts of Fatehpur and Cawnpore. To the east the natural frontier of the tract is the Ken river, but that stream only forms the border for a distance of some eighteen miles in tahsil Maudaha, south and north of which the Banda and Pailani tahsils of the Banda district project beyond it. South and south-east the boundary marches with that of a number of independent states, the chief of which are Charkhari and Chhatarpur, and the south-western corner is peculiarly irregular owing to intrusion of territory belonging to the states of Lughasi, Alipura and Garrauli. In this direction the district owns several scattered villages and groups of villages surrounded and isolated by independent territory, and further north along its western side itself encloses several large blocks of land belonging to the states of Jigni, Behat and Beri. In addition to these, north of Mahoba lie one extensive and one small tract belonging to the Charkhari state, the former of which contains the capital town of that state; and north and west of this in parganas Rath, Jalalpur and Kulpahar are scattered plots which form part of the Sarila and other independent states: all these are completely encircled by land belonging to the district. The total area of the district is 1,448,314 acres or 2,263 square miles.

Topography.

The landscape comprises both the familiar varieties of Bundelkhand. In the south numerous outcrops of gneiss rock, tending to cluster into low ranges, surrounded by uneven broken country and overgrown for the most part with stunted jungle, are succeeded by a more level tract in which the hills grow sparser. At the base of these hills lie the villages which they have partly helped to form and, in many places, large and artificially formed lakes. From them stretches northward the alluvial plain as far as the Jumna river, differing from the familiar Doab prospect only in its treelessness, paucity of villages and predominance of waste. The dividing line between these two tracts of country runs roughly east and west through the town of Rath, though in the latitude of that place but few hills are found. A few miles further south the hills become more frequent, and the two southernmost tahsils of Mahoba and Kulpahar may fairly be described as hilly tracts, though the rocky outcrops seldom exceed 300 or 400 feet above the land at their base. North of the town of Rath no hills are found, and there is nothing to relieve the monotonous stretch of black cotton soil, which breaks up into barren ravines as it approaches the banks of the large rivers and into less unfertile though no less unsightly *rakar* hillocks along the smaller streams.

Hills.

The summits of the higher rocks often contain a large admixture of felspar and exhibit a great variety of grain and colour, ranging from bluish grey to whitish pink. The course of the hills may nearly always be traced running in narrow chains rather east of north and west of south, frequently dipping under the soil and reappearing at intervals of from one to three miles. The most marked among these chains is that which runs from Nowgong to Mahoba, and there is another stretching from Ajnar to Kulpahar, the most conspicuous peak amongst them being the high hill rising over Salat, a village in the Garrauli state enclosed by pargana Kulpahar. In the lower strata the felspar is less conspicuous and hornblende predominates, giving the rock a dull green colour, often almost black, from which it derives its well-known name greenstone, termed in the vernacular *teliya*. Sandstone is not generally found in the district, though plentiful further south.

Connected with the character of the rocks is the character of the soils. These consist of the well-known Bundelkhand varieties, *mar*, *kabar*, *parua* and *rakar*, the two former being commonly known as black, and the latter two as light soils. *Mar*, often called "black cotton soil," the *regar* of Central India, is usually supposed to be derived from the decomposition or disintegration of trap rocks. It varies greatly in colour, consistence and fertility, but is throughout marked by the constant characteristic of being highly argillaceous, calcareous and adhesive. From its very absorbent nature it expands and contracts to a very remarkable extent under the successive influences of moisture and dryness, becoming fissured by huge cracks and holes in the hot weather. The colour, often a well and deep marked black, with every variation from this to a brownish black, appears to be due to an admixture of vegetable organic matter. The division of "black cotton soil" into *mar* and *kabar* is not known in the Central Provinces, nor has it been adopted in the recent settlement in the southern parganas of Panna, where nothing is recognised but gradations of richness in the one soil known as *moto*. The distinction, however, prevails in Hamirpur as in other contiguous portions of the same tract, and is well known to the people themselves. *Kabar* like *mar* is found in many varieties, ranging from a rich dark black to a light brown. Its prevailing characteristic is extreme adhesiveness, which causes it to quickly dry and cake into hard blocks. On the other hand it contains none of the *kankar* nodules found in *mar*, and is much less retentive of moisture. Generally it appears to be in its superior forms a fine clay tinged with organic matter, and in this shape is as valuable as *mar*. The lighter qualities, the poorest of which probably contain much sand, which makes them less consistent, are intractable and ungracious soils, needing an evenly distributed and consistent rainfall to render agricultural operations successful. If too much rain falls *kabar* becomes a mire; if too little falls it can hardly be upturned by the plough. The characteristics of retentiveness and cohesion, though they are of great service in years of drought, constitute one of the main dangers of *mar* and *kabar*; for if the rainfall is heavy or prolonged, as it so often is, it becomes impossible to work them, and if crops have been sown

Soils. *Mar.* *Kabar.*

in anticipation of light rain, these soils cannot rid themselves of moisture and the crops die off. *Parua* is a light coloured sandy soil, found again in many forms. Sometimes it has a strong admixture of clay which under the influence of standing water makes it soft and cohesive like a poor variety of *kabar;* sometimes it is a sandy loam closely approaching that of the Doab. It is usually less rich in organic matter, but its finer texture makes it more responsive to manure and irrigation, and, where these are available, it is a highly prized and valuable soil. Occasionally *parua* is found in an extremely sandy form, generally in the neighbourhood of rivers, where it is commonly called *bhat*. *Rakar* is a refuse soil which occurs on sloping ground, where the action of water has tended to denude the earth of all its better qualities. It is commonly divided into *moti* and *patli*, the former being deteriorated *mar* or *kabar*, and the latter deteriorated lighter soil. The distinction has sometimes been regarded as unnecessary, and is not always well understood: it is however valuable. Probably neither variety intrinsically differs, but *moti rakar* is always found in close proximity to *mar* or *kabar* plains and is those soils in the first period of deterioration; consequently by the aid of embankments the process may often be arrested and the soil attain a high degree of excellence. *Rakar patli* is a thoroughly scoured soil, which may be fairly productive if manured, but which finds its worst expression in the barren ravines that fringe the larger rivers. Both varieties are conspicuous by the largeness and number of *kankar* nodules in their composition and in the most broken tracts become little better than small heaps of *kankar*. *Rakar* is extremely porous and needs plentiful and regular rain.

Parua.

Rakar.

Other soils.

The only recognised conventional soils consist of the highly manured and irrigated plots that surround the better villages, in which Kachhis raise vegetable crops, generally known as *kachhwara* or *kachhiana*, and of the land that surrounds the site and gains organic fertilization from its situation. Proximity to the village site is not much valued in black soils, which are sufficiently rich without manure; but as most villages are built on light soil which forms a more healthy site than black soil, the surrounding fields are generally more valuable

than those at a distance. Such soil is known as *goind*, *gauhan*, *khero* or *khirwa*, the last two terms expressing a feature common to many Bundelkhand villages which lie on elevated sites called *kheras*. Soils subject to fluvial action are divided into *kachhar* and *tari*. The latter term is applied to the soil along the edge of rivers or in the beds of *nalas*, which is covered with water in the rains and fertilised regularly by silt, while *kachhar* lies high up the shelving bank, and though less liable to receive regular deposits, is also less liable to destruction from the stream.

Distribution of soils.

The characteristic of the two north-eastern tahsils comprising the Hamirpur, Sumerpur, Maudaha and Muskira parganas is an upland plain of black soil, the highest portions being generally *mar*; this slopes away and passes into lighter soils along the edges of the ravines which fringe the rivers, *parua* and alluvial soil lying between the ravines and the stream. In the centre of parganas Hamirpur and Maudaha are found specimens of the best black soil, while in the triangle between Hamirpur town and the junction of the Betwa and Jumna rivers lies a good example of a semi-alluvial tract. In Rath and Jalalpur west of the Barma river similar characteristics are found. To the south, however, of pargana Rath the land rises considerably and appears to be above the black soil deposit. In the extreme south-west of that tahsil is a tract of good *parua* irrigable from earthen wells, varied by light *kabar*; this passes northward into heavier *kabar* and gradually merges into the northern black soil plain. In Kulpahar and Mahoba conditions are somewhat more varied owing to the occurrence of hills. The characteristics of this portion of the district are the same as those of Central India. The prevailing soil is *parua* of an inferior quality, deteriorating into poor *rakar* along the banks of *nalas* and at the foot of the hills; it is interspersed here and there with patches of shallow *mar* and *kabar*, and is improved in the vicinity of sites and hamlets by irrigation and manure. As the hilly outcrops cease, the depth of soil becomes greater, and, north of a line drawn east and west through Kabrai, the transition to the northern alluvial tract is practically complete. Over the whole district approximately 25 per cent. of the cultivated area is *mar*, 23 per cent. *kabar*, 30 per

cent. *parua* and 20 per cent. *rakar* of all varieties including *bhat* : this leaves two per cent. for alluvial soil and *kachhwara*. These figures do not represent the proportions of these soils in the total area of the district; for instance the area of *rakar* is very much greater than the proportion given indicates, but they sufficiently represent their relative importance in the district and the part they play in its agriculture.

Levels. The general slope of the country and the steepness of the gradient may be clearly depicted by two lines of levels taken in the east and in the west of the district. The recorded level at Ajnar south of Kulpahar is 730 feet above the level of the sea. This falls to 684 feet at Jaitpur, to 561 feet at Panwari a little to the west; at Rath it is 526 feet and rapidly diminishes towards the north. At Gohand north of Rath the level is 496 feet, at Jalalpur 426 feet and only 406 at Kurara in the tract between the Jumna and Betwa. The easterly portion is throughout lower. On the district boundary south of Srinagar in tahsil Mahoba, the recorded level is 728 feet, somewhat less than at Ajnar which is further north. This falls to 643 feet at Mahoba town, to 525 feet at Kabrai, and to 450 feet at Surha in the north of the Mahoba tahsil. Avoiding the intruding portion of the Banda district, we find that Maudaha is 399 feet and Sumerpur 379 feet above the level of the sea. The same characteristic is found in this district that is found in contiguous tracts; a steady slope from south to north is combined with one from west to east, and has deflected in the same direction all the drainage channels of the country.

River system. The rivers of the district comprise the Jumna, Betwa, Dhasan, Ken and several minor streams. The latter are for the most part mere torrents which are swollen to considerable dimensions during the rains, but at other times quickly subside into narrow streams with a very small discharge. In the upper portions of their courses the smaller channels have low but abrupt sides occasionally covered with small scrub jungle, but as they advance they cut deeper beds much below the level of the surrounding country, the land in the immediate vicinity becoming more and more scoured and uneven. Their course is often tortuous and frequently brings considerable areas within the reach of its destructive action; and as they approach the rivers they occasionally

create varying strips of rich alluvial land along their beds. These streams generally follow the slope of the country flowing either into the Jumna itself in a north-easterly direction or into one of its main tributaries.

The Jumna. The Jumna first touches the district at the village of Misripur, where it forms a sudden loop enclosing a village belonging to the state of Baoni. Flowing thence due east to Jamrehi Tir, it curves abruptly south to Sikrorhi and then continues south-east past the town of Hamirpur to Baragaon, where the Betwa joins it. From this point to the district boundary it follows an easterly course, arching to the north, its total length within the district being approximately 35 miles. Its character within these limits is the same as in other districts, the stream being well below the level of the southern bank which, with few exceptions, forms an abrupt cliff in marked contrast to the shelving northern shore. Stretching inland from the cliff for varying distances are ravines carved out by the force of rain: only at Jamrehi Tir and below the town of Hamirpur are there good alluvial tracts. The Jumna is navigable for boats of small burthen, but navigation is impeded by *kankar* shoals and clay banks and the river is now but little used for this purpose. The bed between Misripur and Jamrehi Tir is occupied by large stretches of sand, the channel shrinking in places to small dimensions; but in the rains these are submerged and the river forms a fine stretch of water, over half a mile broad. For the rest of its course it generally sets well into the southern bank, leaving no room for sand or alluvial deposits. It is nowhere bridged within the district and has to be usually crossed by boats.

The Betwa. The Betwa flows along the north-eastern boundary from the point where the Dhasan joins it to the village of Bahdina in tahsil Rath. The distance, which in a straight line does not exceed forty miles, is nearly doubled by the numerous loops the river forms in its tortuous course. From the latter point to its junction with the Jumna its channel curves gently first north, then south, uniting with that stream six miles from Hamirpur; but in this portion the Betwa ceases to form the district boundary and merely divides pargana Sumerpur from pargana Hamirpur. Just north of the town of Jalalpur six villages of Rath tahsil lie beyond it,

completely surrounded by the Baoni and Beri states. The banks, except at the end of its course in Sumerpur, are precipitous and very little alluvial soil is formed between the river and the cliffs. In the upper reaches rocks and boulders occur in a few places in its bed, but for the most part the bed is sandy. The stream is nearly everywhere fordable, the only points at which ferries are maintained being near Hamirpur and at Chandaut. The banks except in the last few miles are usually scored with ravines. The discharge at Hamirpur has been estimated at 400,000 cubic feet per second and in extraordinary floods at 700,000 feet, and like other Central Indian streams the Betwa brings down large volumes of water in the rains which quickly subside when the falls that produce them are over, the river shrinking for the rest of the year to a narrow and generally shallow stream. There are no bridges over it within the limits of the district.

The Dhasan.

The first point at which the Dhasan river touches the district is in the isolated village of Kurahra Khurd, which is enclosed by Garrauli territory. Five miles further north it washes the borders of an isolated group of villages round Chauka, and at an equal distance north again enters the district at Lahchura ghat. For thirty-three miles it forms the district boundary with Jhansi, except at the two points where Behat and Jigni territory intervene, and effects its junction with the Betwa at the village of Chandwari. For some miles after leaving Lahchura-ghat its bed is rocky, but it soon becomes sandy and continues thus for the remainder of its course. Like the Betwa the banks are eroded by ravines, but these are less extensive on the Hamirpur than on the Jhansi side. The stream is usually shallow, and is only bridged where the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway crosses it in one of the intervening portions of native territory. No public ferries are maintained, but a few private ferries are worked by the landholders at the more important crossings.

Tributaries of the Dhasan and Betwa.

The Barma river rises in the hilly tracts west of Jaitpur town. Receiving the Gunchi at Itaura in Kulpahar it gradually gathers volume and becomes broader. Turning definitely north-east at Kaitha it is joined by a considerable affluent, the Arjun, 8 miles south-east of Rath, and continues in the same direction till it

unites with the Betwa at Kupra. In the latter portion of its course it forms the dividing line between parganas Jalalpur and Muskira. The upper reaches are rocky and lie deep below the level of the surrounding country, but the watersheds terminate a few miles from the stream and but little land suffers from the erosive action of its tributaries. After it leaves pargana Rath these begin to be more frequent and form extensive ravines that invade the fertile plains of Muskira and Rath and hardly compensate for the deterioration they cause by depositing occasional patches of alluvial silt. Throughout its course the Barma is extremely tortuous, but the stream is everywhere shallow, forming obstacles to traffic only in the rains. A bridge is now being built over it at Bihuni on the road from Muskira to Rath. West of the Barma the Parwaha flows through parts of parganas Jalalpur and Rath. A small torrent, which is exceedingly destructive for its size, it joins the Betwa five miles west of the town of Jalalpur. The Barma is a perennial stream, but the Parwaha dries up completely after the rains.

The Ken and its tributaries.

The only other large river that touches the district is the Ken, which for some eighteen miles forms the boundary between tahsil Maudaha and the Banda district. It is of little importance in Hamirpur. There is no extent of ravines along its bank, but it has exercised an important influence through its tributaries. Chief of these is the Chandrawal. This rises in numerous tentacles north-west of Mahoba; after cutting across the north-western corner of Banda tahsil it passes on to Maudaha and thence seeks its way to the Ken river through Pailani tahsil. Together with its winding affluents the Sihu and Karonan on the left and the Shiam on the right bank, it has caused considerable deterioration along its course. In the extreme south of the Mahoba tahsil the drainage finds its way into the Urmel. This stream, which is a picturesque rocky torrent of the Central Indian type, with low banks covered with jungle trees, flows from west to east, forming the district boundary with Chhatarpur, and ultimately finds its way through independent territory into the Ken.

Drainage.

These rivers and streams constitute the natural drainage lines of the country. Their course, with the exception of the Urmel,

is from south to north-east, and as in other portions of Bundelkhand, owing to the rapid nature of the slope, they carry off the surplus water quickly and in every case cause considerable scour. The Barma river practically divides the district into two equal portions; the western part is drained by the Parwaha and is much less broken than that to the east. East of the Barma the watershed lies close to that river, and there is generally a steeper gradient which is reflected in the more easterly trend of the streams. Though they provide a ready means of escape for the rainfall, which is often heavy in the tract, all these channels are destructive and tend to spread. By denuding the surface soil in hilly tracts and by carrying off the organic matter and other soil constituents in the level plains, they are constantly and steadily impoverishing the soil, except where the land is protected by embankments.

Lakes.

The thoroughness of the natural drainage does not permit of the formation of any *jhils*, and none exist in the district. Nor is the bulk of the district naturally of such a character as to form lakes. But in tahsils Kulpahar and Mahoba, and in few other places such Charkhari, the position of hills and the course of streams draining between low rocky outcrops has been taken advantage of to form artificially those lakes and tanks for which Hamirpur is famous. The common feature in them all is a massive embankment built of huge square blocks of stone thrown across the lines of drainage between two hills. Their number may be taken as forty-one, twenty* of which may be reckoned as large, and twenty-one† as small tanks. The best known are those in the immediate neighbourhood of Mahoba, *viz.* Bijainagar, Madan Sagar, Kirat Sagar and the Bela Tal at Jaitpur, which when full is between eight and nine miles in circumference. Both tradition and historical research ascribe the construction of these noble lakes to the Chandels, who flourished from the 9th to the

* Bijainagar, Thanna, Kirari, Kirat Sagar, Madan Sagar, Bela Tal, Dasrapur, Naigaon, Tikamau, Kalyan Sagar, Rahilia, Pahra, Telipahari, Chhikahra, Pawa, Bilkhi, Urwara, Kabrai, Passanahabad, Sijahri.

† Pathari Kadim, Chhatarwara, Nareri, Anrwara, Rawatpur Khurd, Sela Muafi, Sarangpura, Baura, Bhandra, Damora, Mirtala, Srinagar, Kulpahar (2), Didwara, Gorahri (2), Manki, Narwara, Majhgawan, Pipra.

12th century A.D., and few dynasties have left such splendid monuments of their rule. The purpose for which they were intended is more obscure. No traces of old sluices or canals have been discovered to suggest that the object with which they were built was irrigation; and though cultivators may have put their water occasionally to this purpose, it is probable that they were intended to be ornamental, and in part to supply water for the large game preserves which the old potentates delighted to maintain. The smaller lakes and tanks, though useful as reservoirs of water for cattle, were probably constructed as an adornment to the temple which is invariably found on their banks. The beauty of some of these lakes, especially in so parched a country as Bundelkhand, must be seen to be appreciated, and few more effective scenes can be found in the plains of Northern India than the broad sheet of water, with its massive embankment and background of thick foliage, which forms the lake of Bijainagar.

Precarious tracts.

The entire district, with the possible exception of southern Rath, is precarious—a fact which is amply attested by the fluctuations in cultivation, the long list of unpropitious seasons, and the unending series of fiscal measures of relief. This precariousness is a feature common to Bundelkhand and is bound up with the peculiar character of its soils and the uncertainty of its climate. The soils, being either extremely retentive of moisture or extremely porous, for the most part require well distributed and regular rain: but the seasons during which conditions are favourable in both localities are extremely few. A season in which the rainfall is seriously deficient, especially if it ceases at the beginning of September, is more disastrous than any other. But while light soils can generally rid themselves of excessive moisture, this brings peculiar evils in its train in black soil tracts, in the shape of an extension of the growth of *kans*. This grass *(Saccharum spontaneum)* is inherent in the soils of Bundelkhand, and has a special affinity for *mar* and *kabar*. Ordinarily two to three feet high, but sometimes under favourable conditions much higher, *kans* possesses extremely long tenacious roots, estimated to extend four to five feet below the surface of the ground. The consequence of this is that it is impossible to eradicate it, while its

downy, seed-bearing blossoms are transported by the wind in myriads over the country, enabling it to spread with great rapidity. The literature relating to *kans* is voluminous, but no efficacious remedy for it yet has been discovered; its habits and its special features are well known. Like other grasses it is affected by drought and there have been times when years of drought have been a positive benefit to many villages infested with it. It is a noticeable fact that strong and prosperous communities suffer but little from its ravages, and it appears that its growth may be arrested or at any rate retarded by industry. Excessive rainfall, especially if this is a feature of two or more successive seasons, by rendering the black soils unworkable directly encourages *kans;* and experience has shown that any factor which weakens the agricultural community, such as mortality of cattle, over-assessment, or loss of population, has a like effect. Left to itself, *kans* is reputed to die down in a period variously estimated from 12 to 20 years; and it is asserted that the preliminary to its periodical disappearance is its replacement by *sonta* grass. There are several factors other than natural ones which favour it. A suitable seedbed is formed for it when land is broken up in the centre of a *kans*-infected waste, preparatory to regular cultivation in the second year: the slovenly and hasty tilth prepared for ninety-nine per cent. of the *kharif* crops encourages it in the same way, and its spread in such poorly cultivated land has given rise to the impression that the actual autumn crops themselves are responsible. On the other hand, many a field can be pointed out in villages, in which the soil has year after year been thoroughly triturated and aërated in preparation for wheat, and in which *kans* has never taken root. The old official records make no mention of *kans*, and though not entirely absent, it was probably not widespread enough to cause fiscal inconvenience before 1821. In that year, when the notorious settlement of Mr. Waring had run a course of five years marked generally by excessive and untimely rain, *kans* is first noticed as having thrown large areas out of cultivation. From 1821 onwards it has never ceased to cause anxiety in Bundelkhand. The only practical remedy that has been suggested for eradicating it is deep ploughing, and experiments were undertaken with a steam plough

at the village of Pachnehi in the Banda district in 1879. The expense involved was found to be quite beyond the ordinary cultivator's means, though the results of the operations were encouraging.

The total barren area recorded is 230,668 acres or 15·7 per cent. of the entire district. This amount includes 50,771 acres covered with water and 34,576 acres which are occupied by sites, roads, buildings and the like: these two combined occupy 27 per cent. of the barren area. The remainder, amounting to 145,321 acres, is classed as otherwise barren and comprises all the hills and other sterile tracts such as are found along rivers. It might be expected that the greatest extent of this class of land would be found in the southern tahsils, but as a matter of fact those portions of the district compare very favourably in this respect with Jalalpur and Hamirpur parganas. The predominantly black soil pargana of Maudaha contains only 8·5 per cent. of barren waste; it is followed by Mahoba with 10·8 per cent. and Sumerpur with 11·6 per cent. The proportion is greater along the western border of the district and progressively increases to the north: Kulpahar has 15·3 per cent., Rath 17·9 per cent. and Jalalpur 28·7 per cent., while Hamirpur closely approaches the last with 27 per cent. The classification brings out clearly the large extent of area rendered sterile by the ravines which line the Betwa and Dhasan. On the other hand the dividing line between barren and culturable waste is frequently exceedingly fine, and it would be safe to say that the culturable waste in Mahoba and Kulpahar has often a very vague meaning. Thus in Hamirpur and Jalalpur there is less than one per cent. of culturable waste, while in Mahoba the proportion rises to 8·9 per cent.; and it is more than probable that the ravines of the former have rightly been classed as barren, while the rocky jungle-covered tracts of the latter have been returned as culturable waste, though cultivation may be practically impossible. Waste land.

The northern half of the district is not distinguished by tree growth of any sort—in fact is singularly bare. On black soil the hardy *babul* grows spontaneously, and in the riverine tracts there is generally miscellaneous jungle of small and stunted Jungles.

type. The *babul* is useful for the construction of ploughs and carts; the *khair* is a common tree, but not much utilised, and the other trees include the *hingot*, *karaunda* and *karil*: the seed-pods and leaves of the second are much appreciated by goats and form a useful fodder in famine years. In the south conditions are different. Many of the hills in Mahoba and Kulpahar are covered with jungle of the Bundelkhand type and here and there are considerable level stretches of similar forest. The question of their conservancy was under discussion during the years from 1878 to 1880, and the tracts were inspected by a forest officer. The conclusion arrived at, as summed up by the Government (G. O. no. 268B., dated January 23rd 1880), was that the area of the forest land was insignificant and the growth scanty: that it was plain that its conservation or denudation could not sensibly affect the rainfall or seasons of the neighbouring country, and that it was not worth while to acquire proprietary rights in the land or otherwise bring it under the Forest Act. In default of this, the settlement officer was authorized to treat these jungles in a similar manner to groves. A revenue was accordingly assessed on the land and forest, but it was not realizable so long as the landholders did not cut down the trees. No objections were made to these proposals, as the landholders had not been in the habit of making an income out of the sale of wood. The settlement officer, Mr. Neale, at the same time arranged that every portion of the forest should have 10 years' uninterrupted growth. The total area to which this arrangement applied was 6,567 acres; it was assessed at a sum of Rs. 2,820, and it lies in the villages of Sijahri and Bilkhi in tahsil Mahoba, and in Tola Siwum, Sawasa, Indaura, Mundari, Ajnar, Gund, Siyaun, Larhpura, Ari, Budhwara, Karhara Dang and Bagaura in tahsil Kulpahar. The tree that grows in the greatest profusion in these jungle tracts is the *tendu* or Indian ebony *(Diospyros melanoxylon)*; it is mainly used for building native huts. Other common species beside the *mahua*, are the *sembal* or *semal (Bombax malabaricum)* or cotton tree, *kapur*, a rock-loving species of fig, *dudhi (Wrightea tomentosa)*, *kardhai*, *sej*, *dhawa*, *gurja*, *dhak*, *rionj* and *khair*. The best forests are in Bilkhi, Sijahri and Ajnar. How far these forests extended to the north at the beginning of the 19th

century it is now hard to discover. But fully one-third of the district appears at that time to have been densely wooded and to have given cover to many turbulent malcontents. There are remains of enclosed preserves and hunting towers of a still older date now standing close to orderly fields, but during the early years of the British administration rapid strides were made in clearing the country, and it is safe to say that but for Mr. Neale's measures in 1880 even those that now exist would have disappeared under the axe.

Groves.

The total area recorded as covered by groves is 8,234 acres. Black soil is unfavourable to trees, and few are found on it. The only tree that does well in the district is the *mahua*, and even this does not flourish where the soil is unadulterated *mar* or *kabar*. Mangos are found, but only do well on *parua* soil and even there deteriorate. In groves and avenues the commonest varieties throughout the district are the *mahua*, *imli*, *nim*, *shisham* and *jamun*; to these may be added the *aonla* and *bel*, both of which have edible fruits. The *mahua* is most valued for its timber, flowers and seeds, but owing to the importance of the flower as an article of food it is rarely cut. A flourishing trade is carried on in the seed, from which oil is expressed. Besides these, the fig tribe, in the shape of *pipals*, *gulars* and *bargads*, grow well and good specimens are to be seen near some of the lakes. Fenced groves are practically unknown.

Minerals.

There are no mines in the district, but granite can be quarried for use as rubble masonry in foundations, walls and bridges in every hill at a cost of Rs. 3 per 100 cubic feet. Cartage can be obtained at twelve annas per mile. There is a soapstone quarry at the village of Gauhrari in tahsil Kulpahar, owned by the *zamindars*, who levy a royalty on the stone. It is fashioned into toys, vases, dishes and a variety of articles. *Kankar* is used for metalling roads in the northern portion of the district and is dug from the ravines. Its price varies with the distance from the pit's mouth, but stacked on the roadside it costs on the average Rs. 7-6-0 per 100 cubic feet. In other portions of the district the place of *kankar* is taken by broken granite called *gitti*, which costs on the average Rs. 4-8-0 per 100 cubic feet. *Kankar* lime burnt with *uplas* (cow-dung cakes) and other refuse costs

from Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per 100 maunds; if prepared with wood the cost is higher, while stone lime from Kalinjar or Chhatarpur cannot be purchased for less than one rupee per maund.

Building materials.

The absence of all sandstone in the district compelled the Chandel princes to have recourse to the more easily procurable granite, but the temples of Mahoba have lost in ornamentation and carving, as granite does not lend itself to fine dressing. Except in rough blocks or as rubble it is little used by the inhabitants for building. Bricks made in the ordinary indigenous kiln are as a rule of one size, measuring $9'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3''$: they are however divided into three classes according to the burning they have received, and are sold at the rate of 125 per rupee for first-class, 166 per rupee for second-class, and 250 per rupee for third-class bricks. These are the prices at Hamirpur where several large kilns exist: at Maudaha and Rath country-made bricks are available according to quality from 500 to 1,800 per rupee. The timber used in native huts consists of *ballis* of the *tendu*, *sej*, *kardhai* and other common trees; in houses of better class planks of *mahua* and *nim* are employed; and cost less than a rupee per cubic foot. *Sal*, which is obtained from Cawnpore, can be purchased for Rs. 3-8-0 or Rs. 4 per cubic foot in Hamirpur. The ordinary clayey soil found throughout the district is of sufficient consistency in most places to be converted into bricks, and is used invariably for making the flat red tiles which form the ordinary roofing material of the cottage. Good thatching grass is not to be found in the district: *kans* is sometimes used for this purpose.

Fauna.

Of the larger game animals, the tiger is a very rare visitant: the last was probably shot near Ajnar in 1895. The leopard is fairly common in the rocky hills and jungles that abound in Mahoba and Kulpahar, and is destructive to cattle and occasionally to man, three people being reported as killed by leopards in 1898. The bear, like the tiger, is a very occasional visitor, though there is reason to believe that in earlier times he was a regular inhabitant. Wolves and hyænas are found in the hills and ravines throughout the district, and are fairly abundant. Jackals and foxes occur everywhere, but are less in evidence and probably somewhat less numerous than north of the Jumna, while pig abound and

play havoc with the crops throughout the district. The *nilgai* still haunts the forest tracts, large herds of antelope frequent the wide cotton plains, and the gazelle is everywhere found among ravines and in the hills. There are a few lingering *sambar* deer, but their haunts are contracted and no trophies are to be obtained; spotted deer are also scarce, though the Raja of Charkhari has some preserved. Hares are only common in the south; monkeys are uncommon, but in Mahoba and some other places troops of *langurs* are exceedingly troublesome. The larger rivers contain crocodiles of both varieties.

Peafowl, grey partridge and quail (the latter of the smaller varieties called button-quail) abound throughout the district. The painted partridge is common in the hilly tracts, and the common sandgrouse, plovers, blue-rock and green pigeons are found in most places. Of migratory waterfowl, various species of geese, duck and teal visit the district in the cold weather, and find sufficiently congenial quarters on the larger lakes to induce them often to prolong their stay till a later date than is usual in the plains. In the same localities and in tanks the snipe is fairly common at the same season; while numerous varieties of cranes, storks and waders of all descriptions congregate wherever water is found. The avifauna of the district include all the usual species of doves, shrikes, rollers, parrots and other passerine and non-passerine birds. Birds.

Fish of the usual varieties common to the plains are found in abundance in the rivers and tanks of the district, and include the mahseer, *rohu*, *tengra* or *kantua*, *parhin*, *saur*, *gunch*, *bachwa*, *kalabans* and *andwari*. Other species such as *mui*, *siang*, *karata*, *bajuri*, *karosar*, *jhingra* and *bam* or eel are caught. All classes of the population eat fish, with the exception of some Brahmans and Banias, but none but Kewats and Dhimars make it an important article of diet. The latter are also the professional fishermen of the district, but according to the returns of the last census there were no persons whose sole occupation was fishing. Oil is extracted for medicinal purposes from the *sagcha* and *sus*. Fish are caught with nets of various kinds, wicker baskets, and line and rod, and are sometimes shot and speared in sport. Fish.

Cattle. There is no indigenous breed of cattle in the district. In 1867 six bulls for breeding were imported by some *zamindars* from Hansi and Hissar, but no improvement was observable as the result of the experiment, its failure being attributed to the inferiority of the cows. The local plough-cattle, however, are lowset and fairly sturdy animals though small, and those of the *kenwariya* breed are easily obtainable from Banda. Ordinary cattle for the plough cost from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per pair; but better animals cost as much as this each, and the superior imported breeds cannot be purchased for less than Rs. 250 the pair. There are large cattle markets at Sumerpur and at Rath. A bull for breeding purposes supplied by the Government is kept by a landholder in pargana Rath. The male buffalo is seldom used for work either in the plough or cart, the alleged reason being that he is incapable of standing heat. Cow buffaloes, on the other hand, are largely kept by all classes, their milk forming an important article of diet and the making and selling of *ghi* being a favourite occupation of Ahirs. Generally speaking the district abounds in good grazing-grounds, and a large stock of cattle costs little to maintain.

A stock census taken in August 1899 showed that there were in the district 112,121 bulls and bullocks, 123,154 cows, 4,794 male buffaloes and 43,951 cow buffaloes, together with young stock numbering 157,273 head. The number of ploughs at the same time was 45,509, and if male buffaloes be included in plough-cattle, 2·57 cattle are allotted to each plough—a result which was ·19 above the provincial average. Male buffaloes are, however, as in the other Bundelkhand districts, comparatively few; and if they be excluded, the number of bulls and bullocks falls to 2·44 per plough. This census was taken only two years after the worst famine that has ever desolated the district, and at the more recent enumeration, in 1904, the figures of stock had risen to 138,815 bulls and bullocks, 135,028 cows, 8,769 male buffaloes, 43,758 cow buffaloes and 168,714 young stock. During the interval between 1899 and 1904 there had been a large increase in cultivation, which perhaps explains the slight decrease in cow buffaloes owing to neglect of the *ghi* industry, and

the proportion of cattle to ploughs had risen to 2·61 per plough, or if male buffaloes be included to 2·78: both figures are very much above the provincial average. As however the system of agriculture is generally slovenly, it is possible either that many of these animals are not used in the plough or that the number of ploughs is insufficient. The last enumeration was made in 1909, and it was then ascertained that the number of stock under all heads except cow buffaloes had fallen. Bulls and bullocks numbered 117,562 and male buffaloes 3,112: the number of cows had declined to 109,328 and of young stock to 156,189, while that of cow-buffaloes had risen to 45,875. The decrease of stock must be ascribed to the scarcities of 1905-06 and 1907-08, during which large numbers died in spite of the efforts made to prevent the mortality by the importation of fodder. Male buffaloes cost only from Rs. 5 to Rs. 12 apiece; but milch buffaloes fetch a very much better price, ranging up to Rs. 40.

Sheep and goats.

A large and increasing number of sheep and goats is kept in the district, mainly in the ravines of the northern tahsils and in the waste country fringing the southern hills. The stock census of 1899 gave 33,730 sheep and 101,556 goats; in 1904 their numbers had risen to 35,605 and 176,876 respectively. At the enumeration in 1909 there were 41,765 sheep, but only 154,072 goats. Sheep are bred largely for the Cawnpore market, drovers from Cawnpore coming down regularly and buying up the yearlings, which are worth approximately one rupee apiece. There is no trade in wool. Goats, the increase in whose numbers is very marked, thrive in the thorny jungles where they find most congenial diet in the pods and leaves of the *karaunda* tree. They are collectively of the variety usually called *Jamnapari*, and are recognised as good milk-givers. They are bred both for the butcher and for their milk, a good milch goat fetching Rs. 4 or Rs. 5. Ahirs make an increasing profit from the *ghi* obtained. Large numbers are exported to Cawnpore and other markets for slaughter, and their flesh is also locally consumed; such goats cost from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 apiece.

Other animals.

Hamirpur is unsuited to horses, and no good ones are to be found in the district; but ponies are generally owned by small

landholders and others, who use them as a means of conveyance: in 1909 their total number was 5,638. Their average price is about Rs. 15 and it would be an exceptionally good pony whose price rose as high as Rs. 40. Mules numbered 30 and donkeys 520, the latter number being the smallest of any district in the province. There were 184 camels. The camel is usually imported for transport purposes, the climate of Bundelkhand being alleged to be unsuited to it, especially during the rains. Neither ponies, mules nor donkeys are bred in the district. The number of carts in 1909 was 19,725—a large figure; but the standard of comfort reached even by a moderate cultivator includes the possession of one of these. They are mostly of very simple structure, the wood *(babul* and *rionj)* for the wheels and that *(dhak* or *ber)* for the framework being plentiful and cheap; and they are usually constructed on a light plan, and are capable of carrying only a load of 15 maunds.

Cattle disease.

The annual returns of cattle disease suffice to show that various diseases are always present to some extent in the district. The most common forms here, as elsewhere, are rinderpest, hæmorrhagic septicæmia or malignant sorethroat, and anthrax; while some cases of foot-and-mouth disease generally occur, and pleuro-pneumonia is fatal in a number of cases. During the year 1907-08 16 deaths from rinderpest, 29 deaths from hæmorrhagic septicæmia, and 15 from anthrax were reported. Two peripatetic veterinary assistants are employed by the district board to visit the villages and treat animals suffering from contagious or other diseases; and during the same year 532 animals were treated by them.

Climate.

The climate of Hamirpur is characterized by intense heat and dryness, especially in the north, where the blazing glare of the hot weather day is little relieved by the grateful shade of spacious groves. The hot weather commences early in March and reaches its greatest intensity just before the break of the monsoon rains, and if the latter are delayed the heat becomes distinctly trying. The hot west wind in April and May commences at 9 o'clock in the morning and blows uninterruptedly till nightfall. In the south of the district the heat is accumulated by the numerous rocks and rocky hills during the day and radiated at night, rendering the

heat more severe. On the other hand the atmosphere is generally clear and free from the grosser particles of dust—a factor which in part accounts for the severity of the heat and often renders exposure to the sunny blaze dangerous to life. As the hot weather advances earlier than in districts north of the Jumna, the cold weather is somewhat slower in approaching and considerable heat is experienced during midday in November. Frosts are rare, but the cold weather nights are crisp and chilly. The rainy season is malarious and has given the climate a notoriety for unhealthiness, though the town of Hamirpur itself is ordinarily considered healthy on account of its good drainage. But natives of northern districts generally dislike the district for its greater warmth and the increased liability to fever.

The rainfall is capricious and irregular, a steady even distribution being rare, while heavy falls causing floods alternate with long breaks or widespread failure. The district lies partly in the debateable area affected sometimes by the Bay and sometimes by the Arabian Sea monsoon current, known to meteorologists as the "monsoon trough of low pressure." Exposed to stronger but more variable winds, it is liable sometimes to escape precipitation entirely and at other times to be directly in the path of cyclonic storms moving up from the east. Similarly it lies south of the direction generally taken by the shallow extensive storms which bring the cold weather rains down the Indo-Gangetic plain. According to the district returns, the normal fall for the entire tract is 36·07 inches. Records of the rainfall have been kept at Hamirpur since 1861, and at other tahsil headquarters since 1864: in addition to these since 1894 the Irrigation department have recorded observations at the Bela Tal and the Bijainagar and Thanna lakes. Falls in excess of the average are very frequent, but the occasions on which the rain is grossly in excess are not many, the highest recorded being 68·01 inches at Maudaha and 65·56 at Thanna in 1894. Some of the droughts on the other hand are remarkable. In Hamirpur only 10·49 inches fell in 1905, Bela Tal recording 10·77 in the same year. The year 1880 may be taken as an example of the uneven distribution over the district; for, while Hamirpur received only 10·04, Maudaha 14·01 and Mahoba 18·07, Rath received

Rainfall.

28·07 and Kulpahar 25·00 inches. The rainfall appears to be heavier in the west and south than in the north and east. Hamirpur has the lowest average with 33·68 inches, and Rath receives 35·28. On the other hand Maudaha records an average of 36·70, Kulpahar of 36·22 and Mahoba of 38·48. The bulk of the rain as elsewhere is precipitated during July and August; that of June and September is uncertain. The total fall is of less importance for the district than its distribution, and in this respect the September rain is of the utmost value. Unfortunately it is more capricious than any other, and while its absence generally results in widespread crop failure, excess, though injurious to the *kharif*, compensates for the injury by securing the *rabi* harvest.

Health. Vital statistics give a fair idea of the comparative healthiness of the tract. These have been compiled from an early date, but until the introduction of the improved method of registration in 1872, they cannot be considered more than approximately accurate. The variations are considerable. From 1877 to 1880, the average number of deaths recorded annually was 18,433, giving a rate of 35·03 per mille. During the ensuing decade the annual mortality rose to 21,402 or 42·2 per mille; two years, namely 1884 and 1887, were abnormally unhealthy, and the mortality ranged from 16,069 in 1885 to 29,972 in 1887. From 1891 to 1900, in spite of famine in 1896-97 when the annual deaths reached the high figure of 31,887, the decennial average was only 19,260, with a rate of 37·5 per mille. The first six years of the new century have seen little change, the average annual number of deaths being 19,029; but at the census of 1901 it was found that the the total poplation had considerably decreased, and the death-rate rises to 41·5 per mille. Judged by a rate per thousand, the year 1906 has been the most unhealthy on record for thirty years, the proportion of deaths to total population being 65·2 per mille: in 1903 again it was 55·9, and both years seriously affect the shortened period on which the average has been struck. Normally the birth-rate well exceeds the death-rate. From 1881 to 1890 the births averaged 23,226 or 45·78 per thousand; but in the following decade the number fell to 18,229 or 35·48 per thousand, touching the low rate of 19·49 in 1897. The rate recovered rapidly to 46·46 per mille in 1899, and from 1901 to 1906 it has risen

to a higher figure, 48·49 per mille, than any before recorded. The returns showing the total number of births and deaths year by year since 1891 will be found in the appendix.*

In another table will be found the number of deaths occurring from the principal forms of disease.† Fever as usual heads the list, but the term includes many cases in which fever is a predominant symptom rather than the cause of death. On the other hand the district is noted for a particular ague and fever which becomes widespread and frequently fatal in years of heavy and continuous rain, particularly in the months of September and October. Thus 14,340 deaths were attributed to this cause in 1894, compared with 8,750 in the previous year. It also tends to play havoc if prolonged wet weather succeeds an abnormal drought when the vitality of the people has been lowered by the many hardships inseparable from famine. According to the returns, from 1877 to 1906 fever has been responsible for no less than 62·25 per cent. of the total mortality. Connected with fever are bowel complaints, such as dysentery, which claim every year a larger number of victims than to the north of the Jumna. As in the case of fever, the mortality from this cause rises considerably in famine years and is due to the debilitated condition of the people and their recourse to inferior kinds of food. Diseases.

Cholera is not endemic, but is a very frequent visitor; and in many of the filthy village sites, which form a strong contrast to the orderly and clean houses in them, tends to commit sudden and severe depredations. Its worst outbreaks are invariably in years of drought and can be traced directly to contamination of the water-supply, which in such seasons is considerably reduced. In some years the district enjoys complete immunity from the disease, as in the four years from 1898 to 1900. As against this there were 5,655 deaths, forming 20·49 per cent. of the total mortality recorded in 1879, 4,593 or 15·36 per cent. in 1906, 3,883 or 18·48 per cent. in 1895; and there have been several other occasions when the mortality exceeded 1,000. Cholera.

Whatever may have been the case formerly there has been a steady, but fitfully progressive, immunity from small-pox. Small-pox.

* Appendix, table III. | † Appendix, table IV.

In no single year, however, since 1877 has the district been entirely free from it, though on three occasions only a single death has been returned as due to it. From 1877 to 1880 the average deaths were 1,235 or 6·05 per cent. of the total mortality. This fell to 347 or 1·59 per cent. in the decade from 1881 to 1891, and to 26 or ·10 per cent. in the following period from 1891 to 1901. For the six years ending in 1907 the annual average has been 70 and the percentage ·30. Vaccination has increased in favour and has been no doubt responsible for this good result. In 1871-72, 10,287 operations were effected: the average for four years from 1877 to 1880 was 13,876. In the succeeding decennium the number rose to 18,823, and though it fell to 15,708 between 1891 and 1900 has, during the six years between 1901 and 1906, averaged 21,106.

Other diseases.

Plague first made its appearance in 1902, and was responsible for three deaths. It has never made much headway, and Hamirpur like other districts of Bundelkhand has been spared this scourge, the highest number of deaths recorded being 36. The disease has never become epidemic, and all cases have been so far traceable to importation.

Infirmities.

Statistics of infirmities were first compiled at the census of 1881. It was then found that there were 280 deaf-mutes, 275 lepers, 1,948 blind persons and 43 lunatics in the district. Ten years later the number of all except the last had increased, the first numbering 386, the second 350, the third 1,982 and the fourth 42. In common with other districts these figures showed a considerable decline at the most recent enumeration in 1901: deaf-mutes had fallen in number to 200, lepers to 164 and blind persons to 1,386, though lunatics had risen to 62. The fall is not satisfactorily explicable; but, as a large proportion of the infirm are beggars, it is probable that the period of stress through which the district passed between 1895 and 1897 told especially on these. As regards blindness it is recognised that one of the principal factors in its causation is small-pox; and the remarkable decrease in the prevalence of this disease is no doubt responsible for the fall in the number of blind persons.

CHAPTER II.

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

System of agriculture.

The system of agriculture pursued in the district does not differ from that found in other parts of Bundelkhand. Except where the more industrious agricultural castes prevail, it is characterised by slovenly ploughing, insufficient weeding and an absence of intensive husbandry. Various conditions have been responsible for this result. In the first place the population is deficient and, except in the neighbourhood of large townships, the labour is totally insufficient to adequately weed the enormous areas that are sometimes devoted to *kharif* crops. In the second place the vagaries of the climate are a steady discouragement to improvement in agricultural methods, and combined with the peculiarity of the soils induce a speculative attitude towards life. Enormous gains can be reaped in propitious seasons with little or no labour: conversely the evil effects of deficient or badly distributed rainfall cannot be warded off by any skill or industry. Consequently crops are inveterately mixed in the hope that one or other of those planted will succeed, and even the hope of greater profit is insufficient to induce the cultivators to stake all on one variety. The absence of manure and irrigation is another common feature, and the low standard of living which is content with the coarser food grains for subsistence removes all inducement to devote large areas to what are generally considered superior crops. The picture has, however, its reverse side. Much care is spent in the better villages in preparation for the *rabi* harvest by thorough ploughing and aëration of the soil, and instances where extensive improvements have been made by steadily embanking fields are not uncommon. As regards manure, black soils are considered to be sufficiently rich without it, while in *parua* tracts its application is extensively practised by more skilful castes. Irrigation is a factor of very varying importance. Ordinarily *mar* does not require it, and if it did, the water level is usually so low in black soil areas that it would be impossible to raise sufficient for irriga-

tion. On the other hand, where cheap wells can be dug, as in southern Rath, cultivators have not been behindhand in constructing them, and the tidy cultivation in such tracts cannot be excelled in Bundelkhand. Here sugarcane is largely planted, and in the area devoted to this crop agriculture finds its highest expression in the district. Operations generally commence in the month of *Asarh* (June-July) if the rain has fallen. In light *parua* soils the seed is frequently thrown broadcast over the field, without any preliminary ploughing, and then ploughed in. In heavier soils one ploughing or at the most two suffice even for cotton and *juar*. These are the main varieties put in, but they are seldom found alone, and are usually combined with *kodon*, *mung*, *urd*, *til* and *arhar*. When the plants are well above the ground the field is, if possible, weeded, greater care in this respect being expended on cotton which needs it most. Later, when the plants are from two to three feet high, a plough is run through them in furrows to roughen the surface and so help to conserve the moisture. Then the early millets such as *sanwan* and *kakun*, where these are grown, are reaped and preparations are made for the *rabi*. *Kuar* (September-October) is the critical month for the husbandman. Rain is needed to bring the *kharif* to maturity and to soften the ground for the reception of the *rabi* seed. For this the soil is more carefully prepared, and is ploughed from four to eight times, cultivators combining with their teams to plough each other's fields. When the eight days immediately preceding the *Dasahra*, called the *pitra paksh*, are ended, the *rabi* seed is committed to the ground; but in seasons of heavy rainfall ploughing continues often during the whole of *Kartik* (October-November) even to *Aghan* (November-December). The *kharif* ripens in the beginning of the latter month and is cut with the sickle, *juar* stalks being left standing to serve as fodder when occasion arises. During *Aghan* and *Pus* (December-January) Kachhis raise vegetables, and *rabi* crops are irrigated where water is available; while on the wide plains of black cotton soil the fields of gram and wheat are left to ripen much as they can, little protection being extended to them from the ravages of pig and deer. During March the spring harvest is gathered, swarms of harvesters migrating to earn a scanty wage from riverside or other villages where *rabi*

is little grown. For the rest of the year, except where sugarcane is grown, the fields are left to solitude.

Agricultural implements and methods.

The ordinary agricultural implement is the drill plough, with its *naru* or seed tube of wickerwork attached at sowing time. There are two other ploughs peculiar to this portion of the province. The *bakhar* or hoe plough consists of a transverse share of iron let into a log of wood some three feet long. It penetrates the ground some four inches and is a species of scarifier, used to skim the surface of the ground when beaten flat by rain, or to grub out *kans* and other noxious weeds. It is a sign of lazy cultivation, as the work it does is only superficial and it does not destroy the roots of weeds. It will, however, turn over four to five *bighas* per day against the drill plough's one, and enables a small population to cover a larger area. The *nagar* or sugar plough is also employed, though it is not very common. It requires six oxen to draw it and makes a large furrow into which the cane plants fall, as the plough proceeds, and are covered up. The other instruments such as the *patila* or *mai*, consisting of a log of wood drawn over the ploughed soil to act as a clod-crusher, the *khurpa* or hoe, and the *phaura* or spade do not differ from those found elsewhere. *Mar* is said not to produce *rabi* crops continuously for more than 10 or 12 years, when *kharif* crops are sown in it or it is allowed to lie fallow: *kabar*, especially its poorer kinds, must have a change of crops every three or four years, but this rotation is only necessary when manure is unprocurable. *Parua* requires rotation every two or three years, and *rakar* can only be cultivated once with *tili*, the soil being then called *uprahat*, and then with *kodon*, after which it requires at least three years of fallow if unmanured. In *mar*, however, the benefits of rotation are gained by the universal custom of mixing wheat and gram, the latter crop according to well-established practice replenishing the soil with the plant constituents of which the wheat deprives it.

Cultivated area.

Cultivation is marked by all those fluctuations which are common in Bundelkhand. The cultivated areas of the years selected for the settlement of the various parganas between 1842 and 1865 amounted for the entire district to 702,634 acres, or 65 per cent. of the culturable area. At the settlement of 1880, this

had risen to 735,758 acres, but as the culturable area then recorded was considerably greater, the proportion on it had fallen to 61·2 per cent. This settlement was succeeded by several years during which the tract, in common with other parts of Bundelkhand, appears to have enjoyed a high degree of prosperity, and not less than 800,000 acres were under the plough. A change followed the partial drought of 1887, and from that year till 1894 the average did not exceed 737,547 acres. A further change came in 1895 when the rainfall was scanty and prematurely ceased, and the area fell to 653,505 acres. In the following year the district received a set-back from which it has not yet totally recovered. From 1897 to 1901 cultivation averaged 610,987 acres, and from 1902 to 1906, 718,382 acres. At the recent settlement concluded in 1908 the recorded area under the plough was 721,129 acres or 59 per cent. of the culturable area. Among tahsils there are noteable differences. Pargana Rath has the highest standard with 77·3 per cent. of its cultivable area under the plough. No other tahsil or pargana approaches it. Pargana Hamirpur records 58·7 per cent. and pargana Jalalpur 57·7 per cent. The two black soil parganas of Sumerpur and Maudaha return 51·4 and 52·4 per cent. respectively. Mahoba, as might be expected from the large extent of hill and jungle, is the least extensively cultivated with only 42·7 per cent., while Kulpahar has a proportion of 53·1 per cent.

Culturable land.

The culturable land, including the small area under groves, comprises 36·7 per cent. of the total area of the district, and there is no fear here that the limits of profitable cultivation have yet been reached. It varies from only 18·6 per cent. in pargana Rath to as much as 53 per cent. in Mahoba: and is 30 per cent. in parganas Hamirpur and Jalalpur, 35·9 per cent. in Muskira, 39·7 per cent. in Kulpahar and 42·8 and 43·5 per cent. respectively in Sumerpur and Maudaha. Of this amount that which is recorded as culturable waste ranges from 8·9 per cent. in Mahoba to less than one per cent. in Hamirpur and Jalalpur. On the other hand no less than 81·2 per cent. of it is returned as old fallow. If by the latter is understood land which was formerly under the plough but from which all signs of cultivation have now disappeared, the recorded area is manifestly incredible, and this head must

contain all the soil which is ever likely to come under cultivation. Much, however, of this is doubtfully culturable, and it may safely be affirmed that under present conditions much of it would not repay cultivation, especially in the more uneven villages that border riverine tracts. On the other hand the more level plains of *mar* and *kabar* always contain large areas overrun with *kans* or left to waste, because population is insufficient to cultivate them, and in these there is ample room for expansion. New fallow accounts for 14·6 per cent. of the culturable area, varying from 16·9 per cent. in Rath to 8·3 per cent. in Hamirpur. Much of this is fallow included in holdings, the large extent of which is a common feature in Bundelkhand; for the weakness of the soil in light tracts and invasions of *kans* in heavier soils, as well as the small use made of manure, make large holdings, in which some of the land remains fallow, a necessity. The effect this has on the rental system will be subsequently seen.

Harvests.

There are three harvests, the autumn or *kharif* being usually known as *siyari*, and the spring or *rabi* as *unhari*. The *zaid* or extra harvest is insignificant in area, and averages only some 323 acres for the district, the bulk of which is in tahsils Kulpahar and Mahoba. Melons, which are raised for consumption in the neighbourhood of the larger towns, occupy two-thirds of the area. Of the two main harvests, the *kharif* is far the most important and averages over the district 59·4 per cent. as against 40·2 per cent. in the *rabi*, though the proportions, like the cultivation, are subject to very great fluctuations according to the nature of the season. A prolonged and wet monsoon will result in a very extensive area being devoted to the *rabi*, and a corresponding diminution of the *kharif*. There are noticeable differences among the various tahsils. The north-eastern and predominantly black soil parganas, comprised in tahsils Hamirpur and Maudaha, have their cultivated area as nearly as possible evenly divided between the two harvests, the preponderance in Maudaha being slightly in favour of the *rabi*. In the south and south-westerly tahsils the *kharif* predominates, and ranges from 60 per cent. in Rath to 68 per cent. in Kulpahar and Mahoba.

Dofasli.

The seasonal variations in the harvests are reflected in the area which is cropped more than once. This averages 28,887 acres

or 4·3 per cent. of the total cropped area. The figures, however, must be accepted with caution: it frequently happens that in fields sown with *kharif*, owing to incessant rain, the crops are failures, and the prospect of a good *rabi* induces the cultivator often to plough up his stunted *juar* or *mung* in order to resow with *rabi* seed. Double-cropping is not a marked feature of the agricultural system, and the extent to which it is practised depends entirely on the character of the rainfall. Thus in 1894-95, when the rains were exceptionally heavy, no less than 43,673 acres were returned as *dofasli*, while in 1889-90 only 18,765 acres were so recorded. Of the total area as much as two-thirds is found in Rath and Kulpahar, the figures in both tahsils being approximately equal, while nearly half of the remainder occurs in Mahoba. The black soil tahsils of Hamirpur and Maudaha return the smallest areas, and of these, pargana Hamirpur crops less than 2 per cent. of its area more than once.

Kharif crops.

Juar.

The principal autumn crop is the great millet *juar*, which occupies in combination with *arhar* no less than 46·4 per cent. of the total *kharif* area over the district. It is the main black soil staple and is a favourite crop in all soils; in good *mar* and *kabar* soil it is usually grown alone, but in light soils more commonly mixed with pulses such as *mung* and *urd* and on the lightest soils several other plants are frequently found in combination with it. *Juar* is not grown on the best black soils, because it has a tendency to run to stalk entirely if the rainfall is heavy in the early part of the monsoon; it is consequently found in lighter qualities of *mar* or in *kabar*. Many varieties are recognised, the commonest being that which is locally called *dugru*, having one grain only in each sheath: the red varieties are regarded with disfavour. It requires little trouble or attention, and its cheapness combines to recommend it to the inhabitants of the district. One ploughing or at the most two are held to suffice, two and a half seers of seed being necessary per *bigha*: this is frequently sown broadcast and then ploughed in with the *bakhar*. Under favourable conditions the produce is said to be as much as 18 maunds per acre, but the average in all soils does not exceed six or seven.

Cotton.

The most valuable *kharif* crop is cotton, the area of which averages 17·8 per cent. of the total autumn harvest. It is seldom

grown alone, but generally in combination with *arhar, til, urd* and *mung*; and is found only to a small extent in the better black soils, although these are called black cotton soils. It is principally grown in *parua* or in *rakar*, especially where these soils have been manured as in the neighbourhood of village sites. Though not requiring more than one or two ploughings, it needs more weeding than *juar*; this militates against its popularity, and its sowing time is restricted to *Asarh* and the first half of *Sawan*. Consequently if the rains are late, the area devoted to cotton enormously decreases. Least is grown in Hamirpur and Maudaha where it occupies 10 per cent. of the *kharif* area, and most in Rath where it covers 21 per cent. Twelve seers of seed are required on the average to sow one acre, and the outturn is estimated at 2½ maunds: it ripens in *Kuar* and *Kartik* and is picked from then till *Pus*.

Til.

A crop of growing popularity is *til*. At the settlement of 1880 it covered 4·2 per cent. of the *kharif* area: the present average is 13·5 per cent. It is never grown in heavy black soils and the proportions found in Hamirpur and Maudaha are less than 4 and 7 per cent. respectively. On the other hand it flourishes in *rakar*, and is almost the invariable crop in newly-broken-up waste. It occupies over 20 per cent. of the *kharif* area in Mahoba and over 18 per cent. in Kulpahar. Though usually grown alone it is often also mixed with *juar, arhar*, and other crops in *parua* soil: three ploughings are considered necessary for it, one weeding is given later, and it is cut from *Kartik* to *Aghan*.

Arhar and *bajra.*

Arhar is never grown alone but always in combination with *juar* or *bajra*: it is sown at the same time as those crops and cotton, and generally in *parua* or light *kabar* soil. *Bajra*, sometimes locally known as *lihdra*, occupies on an average 8·2 per cent. of the total *kharif* area. The proportion varies from 15 per cent. in Rath to less than one per cent. in Mahoba. It is never found in *mar* soil, and seldom in *kabar*, and is only a favourite crop in light sandy soils or in the more uneven tracts in the neighbourhood of streams and rivers. It is a quick grower and gives little trouble, requires only one ploughing and one weeding and is sown in *Sawan* or *Bhadon*, and harvested in *Kuar* or *Kartik*. Some two and a half seers of seed per acre are necessary, and the outturn averages seven maunds.

Other *kharif* crops.

Other *kharif* crops which deserve mention are *kodon*, *sanwan* and rice. The two former with *kakun*, which is not recorded separately, appear to be growing in popularity and are the first crops in the bulk of the *dofasli* land. *Kodon* averages 6·3 per cent. of the autumn harvest and is found for the most part in Kulpahar and Mahoba, where the light sandy soils are sufficiently rich for this inferior kind of millet. It is not grown in Hamirpur and very little in Rath, while the Muskira pargana of Maudaha tahsil contains the bulk of the remainder. It is chiefly sown in *rakar* and light *parua*, but is also found in *kabar* where it is not uncommonly mixed with some other crop such as *juar*. It is an early ripener and is cut in *Kuar*. *Sanwan* is usually only found in *Rath*, where it occupies less than 4 per cent. of the *kharif* area. It requires irrigation and soon ripens, and is cut in time for a *rabi* crop to be sown in the same field. Rice is not found in Hamirpur or Maudaha tahsils and occupies one per cent. or less in the other three subdivisions. There it is sown for the most part in the beds of *jhils* and tanks, being dibbled in when the soil is wet. It is chiefly of the variety known as *sathiya*, which is grown during the hot weather and so called because it takes only sixty days to ripen. Besides these, *san* or hemp is found everywhere in small quantities; and *patsan*, known locally as *awanri*, is usually planted round the edges of fields.

Special crops.

In addition to the ordinary autumn crops some notice of the special crops grown is necessary: these are sugarcane, *pan* and indigo. There is still a considerable area devoted to sugarcane; this averages some 1,600 acres annually, but the area varies: it is almost confined to Rath and Kulpahar, but a few acres are always found in Muskira and Mahoba. It is cultivated in different ways. The most usual method followed is that obtaining in the Doab: the land is prepared from the commencement of the rains till Christmas, when the plants are sown; it is then usually irrigated as required till the plants ripen at the end of the second year. Sometimes however it is grown after a *kharif* crop has been cut, and sometimes in the fashion common to Rohilkhand of dispensing with irrigation and covering up the plants with a matting of leaves and straw so as to attract the moisture from the soil while keeping off the sun. The former

method is called *kusahi*, which means poor cultivation, and the latter *palwar*. The soil chosen for this crop is almost always the best variety of *parua*, and a largely enhanced rent is taken for the field where it is sown whether it be held in occupancy tenure or not. No rent is paid in the year during which the land is under preparation for the cane. The variety grown, however, is as elsewhere in Bundelkhand a poor one, and the sugar is inferior. Some indigo is still grown but the area is decreasing: 448 acres were recorded in 1901-02, almost all of which was in Rath and Kulpahar. The light soils are most suited to this crop, and it needs more ploughing and weeding than the ordinary cereals: it is sometimes mixed with *til*. The dye is extracted and sold to merchants, as there are no locally manufactured cloths for which it might be used. Only Lodhis, Kachhis and Kurmis grow it; Brahmans consider it unclean and even avoid the growing crops. The stalks are not used for manure, but burnt as fuel. The once valuable *al* crop has almost completely died out, since the introduction of aniline dyes. It was an expensive crop, grown only in the best varieties of *mar* and *kabar*, and necessitated great labour and expense in ploughing, weeding and digging. The thorough upturning given to a field in digging up the roots in the second year was most beneficial to the succeeding *rabi* crop, and its disappearance has been a great loss in more ways than one. **Indigo.** ***Al.***

Pan has been cultivated at Mahoba for centuries, one *mahal* being called the *Dariba* or *pan* shop: there is also a garden at Rath. The cultivation is entirely in the hands of one caste called Tambolis or Barais: and its extent in Dariba varies from 50 to 18 *bighas*, the usual average being 33. The number of separate gardens varies from 55 to 20, and they are never larger than two *bighas* and never smaller than five *biswas*. The produce is famous throughout Northern India. The creeper is carefully sheltered from the heat of the sun by a trellis work overlaid with leaves, and the rent paid varies from Rs. 40 to Rs. 25 per *bigha*. The final product is extremely valuable. ***Pan.***

The great *rabi* staple of the district is without doubt gram. Alone or in combination with wheat or barley it occupies 89 per cent. of the *rabi* area. Gram is grown in all soils, from the ***Rabi* crops.**

finest variety of *mar* to the better fields of *rakar;* in the latter it does not flourish, while in the former its output is often luxuriant. For gram as for *rabi* crops in general the soil is much more carefully prepared than for the *kharif,* and each field is ploughed from four to eight times. The outturn is estimated on the average from two to three maunds. Wheat is little sown alone, and only averages 1·9 per cent. of the *rabi* area. In combination with gram it covers an average of 16·5 per cent., but the area and also the proportions in which the two seeds are mixed vary greatly with the seasons. The benefit arising from the combination in removing the necessity for rotation has already been alluded to: another advantage is that it prevents a total loss if rust destroys the wheat. When wheat is grown alone it is almost always of the *pisiya* variety; and is usually sown in *parua* where there are facilities for irrigation or in alluvial soils. It is longer in the stalk, smaller in the grain and whiter in colour than *kathiya* wheat. The other variety is *kathiya,* which has a reddish tinge: and this is always grown in heavy soils, generally combined with gram. *Pisiya* produces the heavier and more profitable crop as well as the better grain, and is less liable to rust; but *kathiya* is more sought after by the poorer classes, and is extremely liable to rust. The combination with gram is known as *birra,* and where canal irrigation has been introduced the *pisiya* variety is beginning to replace the *kathiya.* In irrigable and occasionally in unirrigated *parua* the best *rabi* crop is barley. It is never found in black soils and uncombined is confined to Kulpahar and Mahoba tahsils, where it averages over 12 per cent. of the *rabi* area. It is however more frequently mixed with gram, and in this combination covers 7·4 per cent. of the spring harvest in the district, the proportion being highest in those same tahsils and least in Hamirpur. The combination is known as *bijra,* each crop occupying half of the mixture, and it has the advantage of being in no danger from rust. The average produce of wheat is nine or ten maunds per acre in *mar* and *kabar* and the expenses of cultivation vary from Rs. 10 to Rs. 16 an acre, according to the amount of irrigation applied or number of times the land is ploughed, or the relative proportion in which it is mixed with gram.

Linseed (*alsi*) occupies 7·4 per cent. of the spring harvest: like *til* it is growing in popularity. It is however seldom grown alone, while on the other hand few fields in the wide plains of *mar* and *kabar* are without their lines of *alsi*: frequently the line of *alsi* is the only boundary line between two fields. Mahoba has the highest percentage of this crop and Hamirpur the least. The produce is valuable and sells from 7½ to 10 *sers* per rupee. Other crops grown are *dhaniya* or coriander seed, *mattar*, *masur*, *sarson* and castor oil, but none of them are extensively sown except the last, which is conspicuous always in alluvial land. The absence of the yellow rape seed flowers and the blue or white pea blossoms is one of the features that at once strike the new-comer from the Doab. Opium and tobacco are found in all parganas; the former is most largely grown in Kulpahar and the latter in Muskira, Rath and Mahoba. Other *rabi* crops.

In discussing the extent of the irrigated area in a district of Bundelkhand it must always be borne in mind that the tract differs from the Doab in one most important particular, namely, the retentiveness of moisture in much of the soil. With an ordinarily well-distributed rainfall, which ends with a few inches in September, nearly all the *mar* and *kabar* soil is capable of bringing spring crops to maturity without the aid of artificial irrigation, and in this way at least 50 per cent. of the district may fairly claim to be naturally irrigated. It is moreover a common belief that artificial waterings in these soils do more harm than good—a prejudice which has operated against the spread of irrigation as a part of the agricultural system. A further hindrance has been found to be the great cost of sinking wells owing to the depth of the subsoil water in black soil tracts, and both factors have combined to restrict the irrigated area generally to the neighbourhood of sites where *kachhiana* cultivation is carried on or to tracts where *parua* soil prevails. Another factor which affects the question is the uneven character of a large portion of the soil. In these the benefits of direct irrigation have been secured in large part by the construction of embankments, which retain the surface water till the sowing time for the *rabi* arrives; the soaking received by the soil usually renders sufficient moisture available for the crop. The system Irrigation.

of embanking has other points to recommend it. The initial outlay is probably less, and the recurring expense and labour of working a well, even where this is feasible, is always, as far as possible, avoided by the ordinary inhabitant of Bundelkhand. Even where wells and other facilities for irrigation exist, the cultivator's instinct is to avoid extra trouble; many wells are left unutilised if there is a moderate chance of the crops maturing without the aid of water. As a rule no hope of extra produce will urge cultivators to make greater exertions.

Irrigated area. For these reasons irrigation cannot be said to play an important part in the agriculture of the district. At the settlement of 1880, 20,595 acres or 1·7 per cent. of the total cultivated area only were irrigated; this was a small rise of ·3 per cent. on the figure of the previous settlement. That acreage has only on two occasions since been exceeded. Like the cultivated area, however, the irrigated area shows large seasonal fluctuations. Irrigation being regarded mainly as an insurance against drought, in years of deficient rainall the area at once rises. Since the opening of the Betwa canal in 1885 the lowest recorded area irrigated has been 11,701 acres in the abnormally wet season of 1894-95, and the highest was 21,633 acres in the famine year of 1896-97. From 1886 to 1895 the average irrigated area in the whole district was 16,764 acres, and from 1896 to 1906, 19,291 acres. Though the net area has thus shown no signs of improvement, progress is manifest from an examination of percentages. In 1884-85 the proportion of area irrigated to total area cultivated was 1·86 per cent. During the ensuing decade it rose to 2·30 per cent. and from 1896 to 1906 has averaged 2·94 per cent. Among parganas the Hamirpur pargana has, thanks to the Betwa canal, the highest area of irrigation, amounting to 2·4 per cent. of cultivated area. No other pargana has as much as one per cent.; but if Hamirpur be excluded, the same differences in the proportion of irrigated to cultivated area will be found among the other parganas that have already been found in other respects. The percentage is absolutely least in the uneven tract of Jalalpur, where it is less than ·2 per cent.; in Mahoba and Sumerpur it is ·5 and in Maudaha ·7 per cent. In the south of pargana Jalalpur, in Rath and in northern Kulpahar an improvement begins to be

observed. This is the tract of wells and *parua* soil, and the proportion rises highest in Rath where it is ·9 per cent.

The sources of supply comprise canals, wells, tanks and "other sources:" in the first of these are included the distributaries of the larger lakes under the management of the Irrigation department. Of the remainder, the area irrigated from other sources is insignificant and has averaged for ten years only 114 acres. As the streams of the district run for the most part in deep channels between high banks their waters are incapable of utilisation, and this acreage can only include the small extent of lowlying land which is irrigated by raising the water from them or the fields along the beds of streams whence the water is fetched in *gharras* and poured over the crops. Less than 5 per cent. of the irrigated area is watered from tanks. From these the water is raised by the laborious swing of the wicker-basket called *daliya*. The northern tahsils have very few tanks and the area irrigated from them is very small, but in the southern tahsils of Mahoba and Kulpahar there are many small reservoirs, such as those at Kulpahar and Srinagar, which are utilised, and the area includes the acreage watered by lift from the major lakes. Thus eight-ninths of the entire area watered from tanks is found in Mahoba and Kulpahar, the average in the former being some 190 acres and in the latter approximately 600 acres. Sources of supply.

Over 80 per cent. of the irrigated area on an average of 15,555 acres is irrigated from wells, and nine-tenths of this acreage exists in tahsils Mahoba and Kulpahar and in pargana Rath, while of the remainder tahsil Maudaha accounts for over 1,100 acres. There is a sharp contrast between the north-eastern and south-western portions of the district in this respect: the smallest acreage of all is found in parganas Jalalpur and Hamirpur. In Hamirpur, Sumerpur and Maudaha none but masonry wells are found: the average depth of water is from 65 to 70 feet, and the provision of a masonry cylinder entails an outlay of from Rs. 300 to Rs. 600. Consequently the number of wells is smaller and the cost of irrigation from them greater than in any other portion of the district with the exception of pargana Jalalpur, where the ravines are extensive. Just to the south of Jalalpur, however, an improvement can be observed; here shallow earthen wells are Wells.

feasible and have an average depth of some 20 feet. In Rath the improvement continues, and out of a total number of 1,200 wells in that pargana no less than 434 are earthen, though the water is further from the surface and does not approach nearer than 36 feet. Irrigation from wells reaches its highest expression in Kulpahar, where the large western tract of irrigable *parua* and the central area of the same description employ 3,972 wells; of this number all but 709 are masonry or lined, the depth of water being from 25 to 40 feet. The smaller pargana of Mahoba shows 1,111 wells at work; but in it only 48 earthen wells are recorded, though the depth to water does not exceed that in Kulpahar. The cost of earthen wells varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 30, but the former is a very low figure and only holds good for excavations made in alluvial tracts such as those in Maudaha. The outlay on masonry wells differs according to the depth of water, the necessity for the provision of *pakka* masonry cylinders and the occurrence or the contrary of rock. Where rock is not struck, the masonry costs from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300, and depends on the capacity and size of the well: as much as Rs. 2,000 is occasionally expended. When the rock is found not far below the surface, as in Kulpahar and Mahoba, a *pakka* well can be built for approximately Rs. 150, and if the rock requires no masonry adjunct, for Rs. 50. There is often difficulty and expense in removing the rock, but it can be utilised instead of brick as lining, and a saving is thus effected: such wells, however, are generally of small size. Water is raised most commonly by the ordinary bucket called *pur* or *charsa*. In shallow wells the lever is occasionally used *(denkli* or *dhikuli)*, and in a few places such as Ajnar in Kulpahar the groan of the Persian wheel *(arhat* or *rahat)* is heard. The latter consists of a chain of small *gharras* or earthen pots secured to a wheel set revolving by a pair of bullocks, and has the merit of requiring less labour than the bucket: it is, however, wasteful and only suitable to wells where the water level is high, and is not much used in the district.

Canals.

The average area irrigated from canals from 1896 to 1906 was 2,683 acres or 13·9 per cent. of the total irrigated area. It is at present only found in parganas Hamirpur, Mahoba and Kulpahar,

the first being watered by the Betwa canal and the two latter by the distributaries from the eight large lakes of Bijainagar, Dasrapur, Thanna, Paswara, Tikamau, Kirat Sagar, Madan Sagar, Kalyan Sagar and Bela Tal. The first seven of these are in the immediate neighbourhood of Mahoba, while the last is in Kulpahar: their total length of distributaries covers 27½ miles; these during the last three years have irrigated on an average 1,850 acres.

The Betwa canal.

The Hamirpur branch of the Betwa canal has a total length of eleven and a half miles within the district, and is confined to the pargana of Hamirpur. The canal originates at the village of Parichha in the *jagirdari* of Tori Fatehpur, 14 miles from Jhansi. The river is dammed by a weir at Parichha 4,261 feet long, including a small island in the middle, the crest of which is 25 feet above the normal level of the river. Flowing due north parallel to the river and the Jhansi-Cawnpore road for a distance of 11 miles the canal bifurcates at the village of Pulia, just outside the limits of the Jhansi district, into two branches. The easterly or Hamirpur branch which alone affects this district follows for 83 miles a watershed between the Betwa and the central drainage system of the Jalaun district, and discharges its surplus water into that river through some ravines about 5 miles west of the civil station of Hamirpur. For the irrigation of this district it is provided with one distributary at Seoni, 11¼ miles long, and three minors at Kurara, Lakhonda and Kutubpur, which are 6¼, 4¼, and 2¼ miles long respectively. The canal was first opened for irrigation in the autumn of 1885, but no irrigation was done in Hamirpur tahsil till 1887-88, when 108 acres of *rabi* were watered. In the following year this area rose to 876 acres, but not till 1889 was any water taken for the *kharif*. The maximum area irrigated from the canal was 2,082 acres in the dry season of 1905-06: only 99 acres of this was in the *kharif*. The extension of irrigation has been retarded by two disadvantageous circumstances. In the first place the canal runs for the most part through black soils, which are not as a rule in need of irrigation, and in which it is regarded merely as an insurance against drought. In the second place it was constructed

primarily as a *rabi* canal, and the extent of water in the reservoir has been ordinarily insufficient to insure a supply for both harvests, especially at the extreme end which is all that reaches Hamirpur. A second weir however, which will more than double the capacity of the storage, has been recently completed at Dhukwan in the Jhansi district, and in the future a sufficient head of water will normally be available for irrigation of both *kharif* and *rabi* crops.

History of the Dhasan canal. The near future, however, will see a large development of irrigation from canals in another direction. The project for a canal from the Dhasan river to irrigate a large portion of the district has been under contemplation since 1868. In 1869 Mr. C. Anderson, superintending engineer, drew up three projects. He proposed to dam the river at Lahchura, two miles below the crossing of the Jhansi-Manikpur railway, and so form a reservoir from which a constant supply of 600 cusecs could be run throughout the year. The first of these projects contemplated a canal with both a monsoon and a perennial branch, each capable of carrying 600 cusecs, the second being designed for the irrigation of the Dhasan-Barma *doab* and the first for that of the Barma-Ken *doab*. The dam across the river was to be constructed with its crest at a reduced level of 650 feet above the level of the sea and higher than that of the highest flood, the surplus waters of which would be discharged over an escape weir and channel west of the Lahchura hills. The estimated cost was Rs. 73,93,140 and the work was calculated to pay Rs. 3·91 per cent. on capital outlay. The second project which Mr. Anderson recommended contemplated similar channels and branches to those of the first, but the dam on the river was to be reduced to 630 feet and to allow flood water to pass over it without the provision of an escape weir. The cost of this scheme was only Rs. 32,36,000. By the third project a canal capable of carrying 600 cusecs throughout the year was designed for the irrigation of the Dhasan-Barma *doab* only : its dam and reservoir were similar to those of the second project, and its estimated cost Rs. 25,17,000, giving a return of Rs. 7·51 on capital outlay. In 1872 Mr. W. P. Richardson, executive engineer, revised these projects and prepared a scheme for a canal that would only be run during the

rabi season. His canal was designed to irrigate both *doabs*, a total area of 1,072 square miles, one-sixth of the irrigable portion of which, amounting to 67,536 acres, would presumably be irrigated every spring. For this a duty of 200 acres was assumed and a discharge of 333 cusecs provided for; in order to obtain this a dam at the reduced level of 610 feet only would be required. The total cost of the scheme was estimated at Rs. 12,35,966, and a return of 10 per cent. was anticipated after the deduction of working expenses. No action however was taken on Mr. Richardson's proposals. Of all the projects for irrigation in Bundelkhand considered at the same period the only one actually taken in hand was the Betwa canal, and until the financial results of that scheme had been fully tested the prosecution of the Dhasan, Ken and other plans was indefinitely postponed. The famine of 1896-97 drew attention once more to the necessity of irrigation in Bundelkhand. A detailed estimate was submitted for the Ken canal, and a further reconnaissance was made of the Dhasan canal by Mr. G. T. Barlow preparatory to the submission of a detailed estimate. Mr. Barlow was of opinion that no irrigation would be required for the Dhasan-Barma *doab* south of the Karao *nala*; that the Barma-Ken *doab* was a very precarious tract of country which ought to be provided with a canal, particularly as rice cultivation would probably extend in it; that the canal should be made for a *rabi* supply of 250 cusecs and capable of running 500 cusecs in the late *kharif* and that a reservoir should be made at Pahari, 7 miles above Lahchura, where the canal head and weir would be situated. Mr. Barlow proposed that the Lahchura dam should have its crest at the reduced level of 591 feet, its available storage being 347,546,100 cubic feet, while the Pahari reservoir should have a capacity of 1,127,055,600 cubic feet. The cost of the scheme was estimated at Rs. 29,94,613, the net revenue Rs. 49,000 or 1·5 per cent. on outlay, and the irrigation in a year of drought at 62,500 acres. Mr. Barlow's proposals were revised by Mr. H. Marsh, C.I.E., Chief Engineer, in 1903, and the present working project was ultimately arrived at. Work was commenced in 1905, and is expected to be completed in time for the irrigation of the *rabi* in 1910. The lower dam is at

The Lahchura dam and reservoir.

Lahchura. It has a total length of 2,210 feet and its crest is at the level of 591 feet, forming a reservoir with a total capacity of 1,355,669,216 cubic feet, of which 627,089,516 cubic feet will be available for irrigation. The maximum height of the weir above foundation is 58 feet, and it will be fitted with 203 gates, 8 feet high, in two flights. The catchment area above the dam is 3,420 square miles, which will give a maximum flood discharge of 510,000 cusecs, the corresponding depth on the dam crest being 16·25 feet. The bed of the canal is 6 feet below the crest level of the dam. The total cost of the weir will be Rs. 6,65,288, to which Rs. 1,41,000 more must be added for the headworks. The details of the second reservoir at Pahari have not yet been finally decided. The dam will probably have its crest level at the reduced level of 635 feet, and an overbridge of 66 spans, each 30 feet 2 inches long. The total length will be 2,367 feet and the arches will spring 16 feet above crest level, this being the maximum flood level calculated. The catchment area above the dam is 3,026 square miles and the maximum flood discharge is 465,110 cusecs. The maximum height of the dam above foundations will be 54 feet, and it also will be fitted with gates 8 feet high, three in each bay. The reservoir will store 2,802,410,000 cubic feet of water, and the work is estimated to cost Rs. 9,17,600.

The Pahari reservoir.

The canal.

The main canal will be 20 miles long, with a width of 45 feet and a slope of ·64 feet per mile: near Tola Rawat in the south of Rath tahsil it will divide into three branches. The Jalalpur branch is 36½ miles long and will irrigate the central tract of Rath: at Gohand it turns north-east and, cutting across Sarila territory, empties itself into the Betwa at Jalalpur. It will be provided with 81 miles of distributaries and minors, the chief of which are the Kudaura and Gaihuli Puraini. The Islampur branch has a length of 35 miles and runs along the watershed between the Dhasan and the Puraha *nala* past Islampur to Chandaut: its distributaries and minors extend over 38 miles. The Maudaha branch turns sharply to the east at Tola Rawat and will irrigate south-eastern Rath with a small portion of pargana Jalalpur: its distributaries will be 70 miles long. The Maudaha extension east of the Barma river has for the present been abandoned under Mr. Marsh's scheme. The irrigable

area commanded is 192,000 acres. The distributaries and minors have been designed to irrigate four-tenths of the areas commanded by them, and the branches to irrigate 50 per cent. of the area commanded by them direct and by their distributaries, using duties of 120 acres on the main canal and Maudaha branch and of 130 on the Jalalpur and Islampur branches. The main canal has been planned large enough to irrigate 50 per cent. of the total area commanded, all channels running simultaneously; but this will ordinarily only occur when the reservoirs are full and the river supply not less than the main canal discharge. The canal banks moreover have been made high enough to contain an additional 150 cusecs for the trans-Barma extension if this is subsequently constructed. If the whole of the available storage and all the river supply during the cold weather is utilised for *rabi* irrigation, the area irrigated in a year when the rains are normal will amount to approximately 66,000 acres: in a year when the rains cease prematurely the area watered will rise to 83,500 acres, but the bulk of this area will not receive more than one watering. According to the revised estimate which has just been prepared the cost of the canal will be Rs. 45,12,102 including all charges. The financial results have not yet been determined, but it is not considered probable that the canal will pay more than working expenses.

History of the Hamirpur lakes.

The question of utilising the great lakes for purposes of irrigation was taken up before the Mutiny, and the first regular canal was constructed from Bijainagar by Lieutenant Burgess, R.E., in 1855. Their development was again taken up after the Mutiny, a beginning being made with Bela Tal; subsequently the lakes at Dasrapur, Thanna, Madan Sagar, Kirat Sagar, Kalyan Sagar, Naigaon and Tikamau were provided with sluices. The special Bundelkhand Irrigation department that had looked after them was abolished in 1862, and their management was transferred to the district authorities. In 1865 their management was again transferred to the Irrigation department, the district officers retaining executive control. As there were good grounds however for expecting from professional management very much better results than were actually obtained, opportunity was taken of the formation of the Betwa and Ken

survey divisions to hand over the executive control of the lakes again to the Irrigation department in 1872. In 1875 Mr. A. Dubus, executive engineer, Betwa canal division, made an exhaustive inquiry into the capabilities of irrigation from not only the larger lakes, but many of the smaller tanks. Nine of the latter, namely Rahilia, Chhikeru, Kabrai, Pahra, Powa Bilkhi, Passanahabad, Teli Pahari, Majhgawan and Kulpahar, were recommended by him as likely to prove profitable and orders were given for their survey and for the preparation of plans and estimates for converting them into irrigation works. The estimates and plans were submitted in June 1876, with a review by the superintending engineer; but considering the small prospect there was of the undertaking proving financially successful, the Lieutenant-Governor, as advised by the officiating chief engineer, determined to drop the matter. Accordingly in 1877 the nine larger lakes were placed under the executive control of the collector and district engineer in subordination to the superintending engineer, 2nd circle, Irrigation branch. In 1880 these orders were reconsidered and the management of the lakes was transferred to the hands of the executive engineer in subordination to the superintending engineer, 3rd circle, Buildings and Roads branch; and thus they remained till 1890, when the construction of the Jhansi-Manikpur railway rendered their supervision from Jhansi practicable, and they were placed under the charge of the executive engineer of the Betwa canal. In March 1905 was formed the special Tanks division "with the object of taking up systematically the construction of new tanks, repairs of disused works and the general maintenance of the tank works in the Jhansi and Hamirpur districts." Since that year, besides the regular management of the eight large lakes,* a large number of old works have been examined and proposals made for their renewal by the officer in charge: and with the increased attention given to the question of protective works in Bundelkhand steady improvement in the conditions and extent of irrigation may be hoped for.

* The lake at Naigaon was abandoned as an irrigation work, but the date of the order is not traceable.

The largest of the Hamirpur lakes is the Bela Tal situated near the town of Jaitpur in tahsil Kulpahar. It has an estimated surface area of 94,585,000 feet and a content of 347 million cubic feet, of which 157,830,000 are available for irrigation. The catchment area of the tank is calculated to cover 18·44 square miles, and the water is capable of irrigating 2,400 acres. The water is contained by more than one massive embankment of which the largest is known as the Misr bund. This was breached in 1869, but subsequently repaired and is provided with an escape having a sill 4 feet below the top of the embankment and a length of 178 feet, capable of discharging 1,629 cubic feet per second with a depth of two feet. A second weir and distributary is provided, which is known as the Phul Bagh. The total length of canals and distributaries constructed from the Bela Tal is at present four miles six furlongs, and the average area irrigated during the last three years has been 469 acres, of which over nine-tenths were irrigated in the *rabi*. As in the case of other Bundelkhand irrigation works, the area watered varies greatly according to the seasons : in 1904-05 it was as high as 747 acres and in the following year only 49. **The Bela Tal.**

The Bijainagar lake lies two miles east of Mahoba town, and forms one of the finest and most picturesque sheets of water in the province. The embankment is built of massive squares of granite, its construction being attributed to Vijaya Varma, a Chandel Raja, or according to another tradition to Gaharwar Rajputs who preceded the Chandels, and its subsequent heightening to Mohan Singh, a son of Raja Chhatarsal. The surface area of the tank is estimated at 33,470,000 square feet, and its content at 150,691,950 cubic feet, of which 83,751,950 are available for irrigation and capable of watering 1,290 acres. The catchment area covers 5·47 square miles. Up to the present time canals and distributaries 11 miles in length have been provided; these during the last three years have irrigated on an average 588 acres, mainly in the *rabi*. **Bijainagar.**

The Thanna lake has a surface area of 28,845,000 square feet and a cubic content of 104,225,000 cubic feet, of which 64,225,000 are estimated to be available for irrigation, capable of irrigating 998 acres, while the catchment area covers 3·20 square miles. **Other lakes.**

It is provided with 5 miles of distributaries and has during the past three years irrigated on an average 291 acres. The lake of Dasrapur covers 18,000,000 square feet, the cubic contents being 45,000,000 cubic feet, of which 9,000,000 only, capable of irrigating 139 acres, are available for irrigation. The catchment area is a good one and is reckoned to cover 7·93 square miles of country, and the lake is also commanded from Bijainagar. Its distributaries cover, however, less than a mile in length, the average irrigated area during the last three years being 117 acres. The small tank of Tikamau lies some two miles north of the Thanna-Paswara lake, and is provided with distributaries one mile two furlongs long, from which only 36 acres are on the average irrigated, ranging from 77 acres in 1904-05 to none at all in 1905-06. The three lakes of Madan Sagar, Kirat Sagar and Kalyan Sagar lie in the immediate vicinity of Mahoba. The first which is the largest, and has a large catchment area, has 3½ miles of canals issuing from it, which during the last three years have irrigated 228 acres. The Kirat Sagar, a somewhat shallow tank with a very restricted catchment, has a distributary only one furlong in length which irrigates a constant area of some 27 acres north of Mahoba town; while the Kalyan Sagar, a large but shallow tank, which can be supplemented if necessary from Bijainagar, has distributaries over one mile long and irrigates an average of some 90 acres, ranging from 28 to 151 acres. In the case of all these tanks, water is in a normal year only taken for the *rabi* harvest, irrigation in the *kharif* being ordinarily only resorted to in the case of an early cessation of the rains.

Famines.

Of the extent to which the great famines that devastated Northern India affected Hamirpur before the British occupation we have no record; but the district is certain not to have escaped the *chalisa* of 1793, and even after 1803 the fiscal records contain no mention of widespread distress from drought, though then as now no doubt there was from time to time considerable injury caused by failure of the rain, as in 1809, 1813, 1819 and 1829. Allusions are plentiful to the damage caused by untimely rain, hail, *kans*, and other natural calamities, and it appears that for the first twenty years of our administration there had been

no severe famine. The only remedial measures of which we read are remissions and suspensions of the land revenue.

The season of 1241 *fasli* or 1833-34 appears to have been a disastrous one, and the injury done to the district was described by Mr. Pidcock, who was then collector and in charge of the settlement of the resigned estates, in several letters. He writes: "The season of 1241 *fasli* was one of unparalleled distress to the people of this district and of loss to Government. The miseries of pestilence, famine and exile which denuded this district of nearly one-half of its population are too well known to the world to require recapitulation here. But it is not equally known that, in addition to all this, the avarice and corruption of the native officers of this district were employed in frustrating the charitable intentions of Government, and of hoarding for themselves wealth gathered from the wretched pittances devoted by humanity to the sustenance of the victims of hunger and disease." Mr. Pidcock reported that although a very large portion of the balance of 1241 *fasli* was suspended by Government, by far the greater portion was collected and embezzled by native Government officers, several of whom were convicted and imprisoned. This famine was followed by another season of drought in 1837-38, but the distress seems to have been unequally distributed and Mr. Allen says that in the parganas assessed by him, which comprised Maudaha, Rath, Panwari and Kharka, its effects were less felt than in other districts of the province. Kalpi and Hamirpur however were desolated. In the decade between 1829 and 1838 there had been three extremely bad seasons in 1830, 1834 and 1838, one of which was a severe famine, and Mr. Muir describes forcibly the ruin to which many estates had been brought. The calamities lived long in the memory of the people, and for many years supplied the date from which they reckoned the chief events of their lives.

Famine of 1833-34.

The great *pachisa* of 1868-69, which fell with peculiar severity on the Jhansi district further west, affected Hamirpur comparatively slightly, the distress apparently increasing in intensity the further to the west it went. The rainfall, which had generally been light, ceased early, and a beneficial fall in

Famine of 1868-69.

the middle of September was localised and did not extend over the whole district. The distress was accordingly uneven, and pressed most severely on the west and south of the district. It did not however become acute till the beginning of the year 1869, when steps were taken to mitigate it. Poorhouses were started at Rath, Kulpahar, Jalalpur, Mahoba and Maudaha, the first being opened on the 4th of March, and were not finally closed till the 30th of November. During this period a daily average of 546 persons was relieved, varying from 200 in March to 916 in June and falling to 15 in November. The sum of Rs. 51,380 was expended in local relief works principally in opening out a road from Chandaut-*ghat* on the road to Kalpi to Lahchura-*ghat* on the road to Jhansi, and in constructing roads from Kulpahar to Panwari and from Bhuraru to Nowgong. These works employed from January to October a daily average of 2,736 persons. In addition to these special relief works, other local works maintained a daily average of 730 persons at a total cost of Rs. 50,995. The scarcity of 1868-69 was not considered at the time to have been a famine as then understood, and actual relief works were confined to Rath and Panwari. The mortality to men and cattle however was very great, and in the westerly parganas, at any rate, the distress was decidedly severe. Mr. G. Adams, who was joint magistrate and deputy collector at the time, gives a vivid picture of the state of affairs: "Grain has to a great extent disappeared," he writes, "as a chief staple diet of the poorest classes, and for some time past even those above the poorest have largely substituted other things for it. It has been replaced by such things as the refuse of oilseed after the oil has been extracted, the fruit of the *mahua* (not the flower but the fruit, which is not usually eaten here) and the stems and roots of the lotus and other water plants, and in some villages (though it is said to have been nowhere the case in Maudaha pargana) the bark of the *bargad* and *semal* . . . . many hundred—in fact thousand—head of cattle have died since the commencement of the year, and their carcases have rotted where they fell if they died on the road or in the fields. . . . . Not only Madan Sagar but every pool or tank except the Bijainagar lake dried either entirely or

to such an extent as to be only a small pool of water in the centre of a wide expanse of black mud with rotting water plants." The maximum prices of food were recorded in September 1869: wheat sold at 8¼ *sers*, barley, gram and *juar* at 10½ *sers*, and *bajra* at ten *sers* per rupee. No great calamity again affected the district for nearly 20 years.

The famine of 1895-96.

The season of 1894-95 was characterized by a rainfall greatly in excess of normal: the *kharif* crops were badly damaged by waterlogging, and the *rabi* by rust: moreover excessive loss was caused by hail. No less than Rs. 1,50,000 of land revenue were remitted for all three causes. The monsoon of 1895 broke early and well, but there were only a few scattered showers in September and no winter rains at all. The *kharif* crops were little below normal, but the *rabi* harvest was a failure. By February 1896 it became necessary to start relief works under civil agency; these were closed at the end of June. Five poorhouses were also established, one at the headquarters of each tahsil, the total monthly admissions being 368 in March and rising to 1,436 in April, after which they began again to decrease: Rs. 1,71,352 of the *rabi* instalment of revenue were remitted.

Famine of 1896-97.

The distress which had been modified by these measures had every prospect of ceasing when the monsoon broke, but gratuitous relief in poorhouses was continued and by August it became apparent that, unless the aspect of affairs was completely changed by a providential fall of rain in September, the district would be afflicted by another famine, in which the distress would be far more widespread and further accentuated by the calamities of the two preceding seasons. The rainfall in June and July was practically normal, but it was somewhat deficient in August, Hamirpur tahsil receiving only three inches. September turned out to be almost rainless. A very large area had been sown with *kharif* crops, but the outturn was less than half the average. It was found impossible to close the poorhouses at all, and they remained open uninterruptedly throughout the year till August 1897, the highest daily average of inmates being 3,665 in January. Half the normal area of *rabi* was sown, and though matters were somewhat improved by half an inch of rain

in November and December and a further fall in January, most of the seed failed to germinate and the outturn was estimated at only one-quarter of the normal. The lakes and tanks in the south of the district had been largely replenished in June and July and were able to afford water for irrigation, while the rainfall of those months had produced a good supply of fodder, which relieved the anxiety to a large extent as regards cattle. Relief works under the agency of the Public Works department were commenced on October 26th, 1896, and on the last day of that month 3,500 persons were being relieved. The numbers steadily rose, the "code system" being at first applied. There being reason to believe that large numbers were availing themselves of relief under this system who were really not in need of it, the "intermediate system" was introduced for a time, to be succeeded shortly after by a reapplication of the "code system." When the latter again resulted in the flocking on the works of large numbers who were not considered incapable of supporting themselves, the "intermediate system" was reintroduced and continued till the 23rd August 1897, when the works were finally closed. At the end of January 50,000 persons were receiving relief on major works, and by the end of May 90,000. In addition to this smaller works under the control of district officers were in progress during the same period, and gratuitous relief was doled out to the indigent and those incapable of work in their own houses. At the end of January 1897, 10,400 persons and at the end of March 23,500 persons were being relieved by the agency of civil officers. In June, when the rains burst, the pressure diminished. By the end of September the numbers had fallen to 7,672, and all forms of relief were discontinued. Altogether 12,395,386 units were relieved on major works at a total cost of Rs. 8,67,757, inclusive of all charges: and an additional expenditure of Rs. 3,26,843 was incurred by civil officers. From October 1896 to August 1897 Rs. 57,802 were dispensed in *takavi* loans for the purchase of seed, the sinking of wells and for subsistence; and the well-to-do poor were unostentatiously assisted by daily allowances in their own houses. Out of the total suspensions of land revenue, amounting to Rs. 8,13,732, no less than Rs. 5,76,797 were remitted. The chief works undertaken were the raising of

roads and considerable improvements were effected on the Rath-Hamirpur, Rath-Kulpahar and Rath-Mohana-ghat roads, while 51 tanks were made or deepened, the best being those at Maudaha, Mirtala and Girwan. Prices were throughout high, and in July 1897 touched their highest point, when *juar* was selling at 8·3 *sers*, gram at 8·6 *sers* and wheat at 8·6 *sers* per rupee: the net imports of food grains amounted to 154,600 maunds. The tracts that suffered most were Hamirpur, Maudaha and Kulpahar. Rs. 65,000 were received from the Indian famine charitable fund and distributed for the purchase of cattle, seed and other necessaries. Though the fall of good rain in the monsoon of 1897 and the resumption by the people of their normal occupations put an end to the necessity of direct measures of relief, the loss of men and cattle, by death, emigration and the general effects of famine produced results from which the district was not soon to recover. The cultivated area of 1897-98 amounted to only 584,747 acres or 25 per cent. less than the standard fixed at settlement. Moreover the crops sown were mostly of the cheaper autumn variety, and this accentuated the district's losses. During the next few years, the revenue was found to be excessive and was summarily reduced, and other steps were taken to relieve impoverished proprietors of indebtedness, which will be subsequently detailed. In 1899-00 there was an irregular monsoon; but the district fortunately escaped with only a partial drought and considerable progress had been made towards recovery, when an unprecedented frost in 1905 was followed by another famine.

Famine of 1905-06.

The monsoon of 1905 was late in starting and characterised by lightness throughout: no rain fell in June, and only some four to four and a half inches in the following three months, the total defect on the normal being nearly 22 inches. Out of 1,994 *mahals* in the district the crop was reported to be less than eight annas in 836, and in 608 of these it was less than four annas. The *rabi* harvest was even worse and ultimately Rs. 3,82,105 of land revenue were remitted on account of both instalments. Prices which had been well above normal rates in the case of *juar* and *bajra*, rose sharply in December and fluctuated between 12 and 11 *sers* per rupee till June, when *juar* stood at 8 *sers* per rupee. On the other hand wheat and gram, which had stood

high at first, eased somewhat owing to importations from the Punjab in May and the following months. A test work was opened at Chhani in pargana Sumerpur, where the distress appeared to be most severe, in December, and on February 11th, when the number rose to over 6,000, famine was declared. By the first week in April the number of persons on relief works managed by the Public Works department exceeded 52,000. The pressure on this occasion was somewhat relieved by the fact that the Dhasan canal works were giving employment to some 10,000 labourers. During May and June the heat and an outbreak of cholera drove a number of people off the works: the number then fell to 40,000, and from that date continuously decreased. The monsoon burst in the last week of June, and road-making was suspended and its place taken for a short time by stone-quarrying: all works were closed on September 15th. The total expenditure incurred by the Public Works department was Rs. 4,94,136. In addition to these, works on a smaller scale were conducted under the supervision of the district staff and on the aided system, but the numbers on the former never exceeded 1,500. Poorhouses were started at Hamirpur and Maudaha, the latter being the only one extensively used, as all indigent cases were provided for by gratuitous relief at their own homes. The number of those so relieved was 598 at the end of February and rose gradually at the rate of approximately 330 a month till the rains broke; after this there was a very rapid rise owing to the removal of women and children from the works and the simultaneous relaxation of the conditions of village relief. At the beginning of September the number had risen to 33,490, and from that date it was gradually reduced till those remaining on the list of recipients on October 20th were dismissed with valedictory doles. The total expenditure incurred in relief by the civil authorities, as distinct from the Public Works department, amounted to Rs. 1,87,733, of which Rs. 1,64,889 fell under the head of gratuitous relief given at the houses of the people. The health of the people remained on the whole excellent till April, when both small-pox and cholera made their appearance. Later in August, owing to the continuance of heavy rain, fever played havoc among those who were exhausted by the

effects of famine. The mortality of cattle however was very great. A summary cattle census taken in December 1906 indicates the loss; bulls and bullocks were found to number 109,159 as against 135,028 in 1904; and other stock had fallen from 356,264 head to 234,000. Those who were thus left destitute of the chief instruments of their calling were assisted by advances from the Government and by doles from the charitable fund: Rs. 2,83,913 were granted in loans during the year for the purchase of cattle and Rs. 83,131 for the purchase of seed.

The Famine of 1907-08. Hamirpur suffered in common with a large portion of the province again in 1907-08, but escaped more lightly than in either of the previous visitations. The rainfall of June and July was well below but that of August was nearly double the normal: no rain fell in September or October. The fact that the people were better able to offer resistance to the distress ensuing from high prices is attributed in part to the smaller exportation of food grains in the good harvests of 1906-07, for the *kharif* out-turn of 1907-08 was not estimated to be more than 21 per cent. or the *rabi* more than 26 per cent. of the normal. Rs. 3,12,846 of the autumn instalment of land revenue were promptly remitted, and this was followed by a remission of Rs. 3,47,819 in the spring. The relief that was given by the large demand for labour on the Dhasan canal works was supplemented by the liberal distribution of *takavi*, amounting to Rs. 3,78,391. Test works were opened in December, but failed to attract many people; but in the following month it was found necessary to start gratuitous relief. It was not till March however that it was found necessary to start any large relief works or aided works, and the greatest number relieved at any time did not exceed 36,539 units. Altogether Rs. 1,70,260 were expended by the Public Works department and Rs. 2,13,574 by civil officers. The shortage of fodder, which ultimately proved to be much less serious than was at first anticipated, was met by importations of baled hay supplied by contractors at Jhansi.

Prices. There are no materials extant in the district for tracing the earliest fluctuations of prices; but there is no reason to suppose that they differed to an important extent from those prevailing

in the neighbouring district of Banda. Such records as there are serve to show that, up to 1860, prices ruled very low, though the fluctuations arising from years of plenty or the reverse were far more marked than at the present time, when vastly improved means of communication tend to their equalization in all parts of the country. From 1861 to 1871 wheat averaged over 18 *sers* per rupee, the highest rate being $9\frac{3}{4}$ *sers* in the famine of 1869 and the lowest $26\frac{1}{4}$ in 1862. The average for barley was $24\frac{3}{4}$ *sers*, ranging between $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $35\frac{1}{2}$ *sers* in those same years; for gram 24 sers, for *juar* 26 *sers* and for *bajra* $24\frac{3}{4}$ *sers*. In the following 10 years the famine of 1877-78 operated adversely on prices and raised the average considerably; but apart from this calamity, the rates would have been somewhat easier than in the preceding decade. About 1885 a general rise took place throughout the United Provinces, resulting from widespread economic causes; and since that year, they have never regained the position they held prior to it. The succeeding decade was characterised by a severe famine; but even when the effects of this had past away in 1899, wheat was found selling at a little over 13 *sers*, barley at $16\frac{3}{4}$ *sers*, *juar* and *bajra* at $18\frac{1}{2}$ *sers*, and gram at $19\frac{1}{4}$ *sers* per rupee. In 1900, 1905 and 1907 there were other famines and scarcities that affected the average, but normal prices in the district are now reckoned to be 14 *sers* for wheat, 21 *sers* for gram, 22 *sers* for *bajra* and $23\frac{3}{4}$ *sers* for *juar*, these being the grains most commonly consumed by the people. From these it will be seen that the rates for the chief staples grown in the district have not risen as much as that for wheat, which has a wider market.

Weights and measures.

King's coin is the common medium of exchange throughout the district. In parganas Rath and Kulpahar however the *Srinagari* rupee was till 1908 in common use both in the town of Rath and in the villages. This coin takes its name from the town of Srinagar in the south of tahsil Mahoba, where in the time of the Jalaun *subahdars* an *amil* was stationed and a mint established. Up till 1842 it was the currency in which the revenue assessments were calculated and all rents recorded. The latter were at the settlement of that year commuted at the rate of 14 annas per *Srinagari* rupee. In Rath many tenants still pay tradi-

tional rents in this coin, irrespective of the rate of exchange, and there are over a dozen varieties of the coin in circulation which are indistinguishable to the ordinary landholder and cultivator, and in all payments made to them they are treated as of equal value. Traders from outside bring in Government rupees and purchase the local coins from the shroffs, and when the cultivator is obliged to purchase Government rupees, the shroff sorts out the *Srinagari* rupees presented and declares a different value for each, the market value of which fluctuates every month and is fixed by a small ring to their own advantage. The coin is however very unpopular and is fast disappearing from use: its value has sunk to about nine annas only, which is less than that of the silver it contains. The trade of Rath has in consequence of this difference in current coinage been considerably hampered in the past, and the substitution of Government rupees will greatly benefit the town.

In the north of the district the ordinary *ser* and *tola* are in use, but in the south the system introduced by Chhatarsal still survives. The unit of this is the *takka balashahi* weighing 255 grains Troy, and the *ser* varies from 16 to 28 *takkas*: one *adhari* is equivalent to 4 to 7 *takkas*; 4 *adhari* to one *adhara*, *karua*, *chauri* or *ser*: 10 to 16 *adharas* to one *paila*; 4 *pailas* to one *manu* and eight *manus* to one *gon*: in some places the *manu* is not recognized, and 20 *pailas* make one *gon*. As regards liquid measures of capacity one *chhatank* is equivalent to 3½ *paisa*; two *chhatanks* make an *adhpao*, and one *pawa* is equivalent to seven *takka bhar* or a quarter of a *ser*. These are followed by the *adh ser*, *arhaiya* or two and a half *sers*, the *panseri* and the *man*. The *angul* or average breadth of a man's finger is the unit in cloth measures; four to five *anguls* make a *girah*, eight *girahs* one *hath*, and two *haths* one *gaz*. Another multiple of this unit is the *bita*, which contains 16 *anguls*: two *bita* are equivalent to one *hath*, 100 *haths* to one *khet* or *dori*, and 100 *khets* to one *kos*. Among jewellers three grains of rice equal one *rathi*, eight *rathis* one *masha*, 12 *mashas* one *tola*. A common form of land measure is the *gutta* which is equivalent to between four and six *haths*: 20 *guttas* are equal to one *dori*, and 20 square *guttas* to one *bigha*.

The Government *bigha* is equivalent to 2,093·0625 yards, and contains two *bighas* six *biswas* and five *biswansis*. The measures of time do not differ from those found elsewhere : 60 *pals* equal one *ghari*, four *gharis* one *pahar*, eight *pahars* one day.

Wages. There has been a considerable rise in the wages of artisans during the century, though it may not be commensurate with the rise in prices. There appears to have been a very great and rapid enhancement after the Mutiny, and it was estimated in 1874 that all wages had since that time risen from 15 to 100 per cent. In 1874 smiths were paid at the rate of three or four annas per day, bricklayers and carpenters two and a half to three annas, labourers in town two annas and the same class in the villages at one and a half annas. Since that date the rise has been steady but less marked. As regards field labourers it is difficult to gauge the amount of increase owing to the custom of paying in grain, or partly in grain and partly in cash, but it would be difficult to procure men labourers for less than two and a half annas, though women and children command the smaller pay of six pice or one anna. Bricklayers and carpenters now obtain three or four annas per day, though more skilful workmen claim double this amount. The wages of smiths have little changed, but in the villages they obtain perquisites at harvest time which eke out their daily remuneration.

Interest. The current rates of interest are in small transactions, where an article is given in pledge as security, 12 to 24 per cent., and in large loan transactions of a similar nature 6 to 9 per cent., occasionally rising to 12. If land or a house is mortgaged the rate varies from 12 to 24 per cent. When small loans are taken for agricultural purposes on personal security, the interest taken is usually as high as 37½ per cent. if in cash, and if in grain nominally 25 to 50 per cent. In the latter case, however, the interest which is at money rates really works out at a far higher sum, as the advance is repayable in grain. If money is borrowed with a lien on crops, the rate taken is somewhat lower and varies from 20 to 24 per cent. Ten per cent. is regarded as fair return for money invested in buying an estate. Impoverished landholders sometimes borrow cash to pay their revenue or other expenses at 25 per cent. per half-year calculated

at compound rates. Thus Rs. 100 is borrowed in the *kharif* on the understanding that Rs. 125 will be repaid in the *rabi*: if the debtor fails he will be obliged to pay 25 per cent. on Rs. 125 at the next *kharif*. Loans are chiefly negotiated by a few Marwaris and small advances by the village *banias*. There is no large native banking establishment in the district.

Manufactures. The tract is almost exclusively devoted to agriculture, and manufactures are conspicuously absent. In Gauhrari, a village a few miles north of Kulpahar, several hundred persons are employed in moulding bowls and other vessels out of a soft soapstone found in the hills close by. These articles are exported to a considerable distance. Coarse cloth for local use is woven thoughout the district by Koris, and there are some Musalman weavers in Mahoba. Potters have a wheel which is peculiar to the district: it is called *kunda* and, instead of being supported on a wooden pivot fixed to the ground, has a ball of lac attached to its under surface on which it revolves. Idol-casting and the manufacture of small brass animals is carried on by a few families of Sonars in Srinagar south of Mahoba. The idols are of two kinds, solid and hollow; pure brass idols sell at from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per *ser*, while those which are filled with lead at Rs. 1-8-0. The Maudaha silversmiths have some skill, their speciality being curious jointed fishes used as trinkets, but the industry is declining. There is a cotton ginning mill at Kulpahar owned by a Parsi firm, and another small one at Mahoba which belongs to an enterprising Brahman landowner. A hay baling press has also been started at Kulpahar. The village of Kuchhechha in pargana Rath was noted formerly as a cloth dyeing centre, but within the last few years the dyers have left the place and moved over into the Jhansi district: dyeing is however still carried on in Rath. In connection with the manufactures of the district it may be mentioned that there is a school of art at Charkhari where models of wood and brasswork are designed and weaving is also taught.

Markets. One noticeable feature of the district is the absence of any really large central market. Rath is the nearest approach to it, as it stands in the centre of the richest and most populous tract in the district. Mahoba, owing to its *pan* industry, its long-

standing prestige, and its position on the railway, enjoys a considerable trade also. The other chief local markets are Sumerpur, Maudaha and Hamirpur, and a list of all the bazars will be found in the appendix. The district is also served by Charkhari which has in recent years rapidly developed, and a certain amount of traffic from Jalalpur finds its way to Kalpi. Produce is disposed of also in other ways. Traders or their agents come from considerable distances and buy up the local produce on the spot, while numbers of landholders and even substantial cultivators transport their produce all the way to Cawnpore, even from places on the railway. The reason for this procedure is in part that, during the busy season of the year, traffic has been seriously hampered by the shortage of rolling-stock, and produce has been left lying on the stations for weeks, and even months, while the whole journey by road to Cawnpore even from the south of the district occupies little more than two or three weeks. The railway maintains out-agencies at Rath and Charkhari, whence goods are transported by carts to the nearest stations at Kulpahar and Mahoba.

Trade.

The articles of trade exported from the district are now, what they have always been, gram and pulses, *ghi*, raw cotton, *pan*, *juar* and oilseeds (including *til*, linseed and *mahua*). The only change that has taken place during the last ten years is a very great extension of the trade in oilseeds, especially that of *til* and *mahua*. The chief imports into Hamirpur, as elsewhere, are refined and unrefined sugar, rice, wheat, salt, kerosine oil and cotton piece-goods. Besides these a large number of animals, most of which are destined for the Cawnpore market, cross into the Doab past Hamirpur. There are no returns to show the extent of the traffic which passes along the older trade routes; but the bulk of the trade of the district, especially to the south, is now rail-borne. During the five years ending in 1907 the returns show that an average of 1,784 tons of food grains, 5,237 tons of oilseeds and 385 tons of cotton have been imported into or exported from the district.

Fairs.

A complete list of all the fairs in the district will be found in the appendix. They are numerous, but there are none of any size or importance, and the great majority are small local gatherings of a few hundred people round the nearest tank or temple on the

occasion of the ordinary Hindu festivals. These fairs are for the most part of a purely religious character, though they also afford an opportunity for trading on a small scale. The greater number occur during the months of Chait, Pus and Aghan. The most frequented one is that which is held in honour of Sidhhrakh Baba at Chhani Buzurg, commencing on the day of the full moon in *Pus* (December-January), which is attended by some 10,000 people. The rest call for no comment, and none of them require either special police or sanitary precautions.

Railways. The only railway that at present serves the district is the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. This was opened for traffic in 1889. It runs across tahsils Kulpahar and Mahoba in the south of the district, and has stations at Ghutai, Bela Tal (Jaitpur), Kulpahar, Supa, Mahoba, Karipahari and Kabrai, while that of Harpalpur is just beyond its borders. Its total length within the district is 48 miles. A project, however, has been prepared to connect Cawnpore with Banda by a line on the broad-gauge system. This will probably cross the Jumna below its junction with the Betwa, and have a station some six miles from Hamirpur. It will continue through Sumerpur and Maudaha parganas into Banda and cross the Ken river by the existing bridge. If it is decided to bridge the Jumna first and subsequently the Betwa, the town of Hamirpur will have a station of its own. Another branch is contemplated also which will give the important town of Rath direct communication. Details have not yet been decided, but levels have been taken along a course from Bela Tal through Rath and Muskira to Sumerpur and Maudaha, at either of which places the line would connect with the proposed Cawnpore-Banda section.

Roads. The roads of the district are divided into two classes, provincial and local, the former being under the charge of the Public Works department and maintained from imperial revenues, and the latter partly supervised by that department and partly controlled by the district board, but in both cases maintained from local funds. The provincial roads, which are bridged, drained and metalled throughout, consist of the Cawnpore-Hamirpur-Saugor and the Fatehpur-Banda-Saugor roads. The total length of the former within the district is 27

Ferries.

A list of all the ferries in the district will be found in the appendix. Allusion has already been made to those over the Betwa and Jumna in the immediate neighbourhood of Hamirpur on the metalled road. There are four other ferries on the Jumna, at Bhauli and Sikrorhi to the west, and at Pataura and Sarauli to the east of Hamirpur. At Bhauli, Sikrorhi and Pataura the river is fordable most of the year and at other times can be crossed by *gharnaos,* or rafts supported on *gharras,* or in small boats : at Sarauli the water is deeper and boats are exclusively used. All these ferries are under the control of the district board and bring in a considerable income. No public ferries are now maintained over the Betwa and Dhasan rivers or over the smaller streams, where the service of conveying persons across is performed by private enterprise. Those owned privately are maintained at the chief crossings of the Betwa, while on the Dhasan there are several which are managed by the landholders on the Jhansi side.

Bungalows and encamping-grounds.

There are dak bungalows at Hamirpur and Mahoba; and inspection houses on provincial or local roads at Mahoba, Kabrai, Naraich, Maudaha, Sumerpur, Chhani, Muskira, Rath, Panwari, Kulpahar and Jariya. Three bungalows at Kunehta, Sisolar and Jalalpur, built during the famine of 1908, are maintained by the district board. There is a canal inspection house, belonging to the Betwa canal, at Kurara; and the district has been enriched by 12 others which form part of the equipment of the newly-constructed Dhasan canal. These are located at Kotra, Kulenhda, Rath, Gohand, Sarila, Puraini, Kaitha, Dadri, Chilla, Majhgawan, Rehonta and Bokhar ; two others are projected, one at Lahchura, where the headworks of the canal are situated, and the other at Tain. The only encamping-ground belonging to the military authorities is situated at the village of Ghanghaura in tahsil Kulpahar. On provincial roads, there are encamping-grounds at Hamirpur, Sumerpur, Kabrai, Mahoba and Srinagar ; and on local roads at Kulpahar, Sisolar, Kurara, Muskira, Bewar, and Rath. In addition to these there are eight local encamping-grounds, managed directly by the district board, at Bhattipura, Mochipura, Rath, Kaitha, Jalalpur, Amund, Ori Talab and Jaitpur.

CHAPTER III.

THE PEOPLE.

The earliest census taken in the present district was made by Messrs. Muir and Allen at their settlement in 1842, but it did not apply to Mahoba or Jaitpur. The total population in parganas Maudaha, Sumerpur, Panwari, Rath, Kharka, Jalalpur and Hamirpur was found then to be 226,245 persons, male and female. This gave a density of 118 persons to the square mile, ranging from 146·7 in Maudaha to only 50·2 in the ravines of Kharka. When the figures were compiled for the census of 1853 Mahoba was still included in the Jalaun state and no conclusions can be drawn from them as the district totals include the populations of parganas Kunch and Kalpi. By the time however the next census had been taken in 1865, both parganas Mahoba and Jaitpur had been handed over to Hamirpur in exchange for Kunch and Kalpi, so that by that year the district may be said to have assumed its present proportions. The total area was returned at 2,288·50 square miles, and the total population at 520,941 persons, giving a density of 228 per square mile. The district as a whole had probably lost in density owing to the exchange of the fertile and populous tract of Kunch in return for the hilly parganas of Jaitpur and Mahoba, but there had been certainly a substantial rise in the total number of the inhabitants. This was due to the greater security following the clearance of the country from banditti and robbers and the rapid extension of cultivation. Hindus formed 93·7 per cent. of the population, and there were 90·01 females to every 100 males. **Early Censuses.**

The census of 1872 was the first of the regular censuses at which accuracy and completeness were attained. The total area of the district was now returned at 2,286 square miles, and the population at 529,137 persons, giving a density of 231 persons per square mile. There were at that time six tahsils divided into eight parganas, and the density varied from 269 per square mile in **Census of 1872.**

Rath to 198 in Jalalpur. The total number of villages and towns was 744. Only one of these contained more than 10,000 inhabitants, namely Rath; six more contained between 5,000 and 10,000, 11 between 3,000 and 5,000, while 420 held less than 500 inhabitants. In 1865, 754 townships had been enumerated, and the decrease is partly attributable to the elimination of small hamlets and partly no doubt to their disappearance, as the district was visited with a severe famine in 1868-69. There was a rise in the total population of nearly two per cent. since the previous census, and the relative proportion of females to males or Hindus to Muhammadans had not changed.

Census of 1881.

At the census of 1881 the total population of the district was ascertained to be 507,337 persons, falling at a rate of 222 to the square mile and showing a decrease 21,800 or 4·1 per cent. Over 90 per cent. of this loss fell on the tahsil of Hamirpur alone, Jalalpur, now partly in Muskira, Maudaha and Mahoba all losing a small percentage of population, while Rath and Panwari-Jaitpur, now called Kulpahar, gained. The reasons for this large decrease in the northern portion of the district are not obvious and can only be ascribed to emigration, as there was no overwhelming calamity during the decade. The district then contained 755 towns and villages, of which 442 had a population of less than 500 people and 168 of between 500 and 1,000. There still remained only the town of Rath with over 10,000 inhabitants, but the number of those with a population of over 5,000 had been increased by one. With the exception of the loss sustained by Hamirpur tahsil the population of the district may generally be said to have remained as it was in 1872.

Census of 1891.

During the ensuing decade the population began to return to the figure of 1872, and in 1891 numbered 513,720, an increase of 6,383 persons or 1·2 per cent. At this enumeration it was found that tahsil Hamirpur was the principal gainer as it had previously been the principal loser, though the increase was hardly commensurate with the previous loss. Maudaha, Mahoba and Kulpahar all gained considerably, but Rath and Jalalpur lost almost an equal number. The number of towns and villages continued to grow and was now returned at 764, those containing between 500 and 1,000 inhabitants increasing from 168 to 185; but there

was little change in other classes. The decade was generally a prosperous one and no change took place that is worth recording.

Census 1901.

The last census was taken in 1901 after a period generally most unfavourable to agriculture and containing some years of scarcity or famine. The population was found to have fallen to 458,542, giving a density of only 201 persons per square mile of total area; this represents a decrease of 10·74 per cent. on the figures of 1891. The decline was most serious on this occasion in the south and east of the district, tahsil Mahoba losing 16·5 per cent., Maudaha 15·95 per cent., and Kulpahar 12·3 per cent. Hamirpur tahsil sustained a loss of 11·7 per cent., and the only tahsil which may be said to have remained unscathed was Rath in which the decline was less than one per cent. Death or emigration due to the evils of famine combined with abnormally wet seasons had, in common with other parts of Bundelkhand, most seriously thinned the population, especially in the black soil tracts. The number of towns and villages was returned at 763. There were however now two towns with over 10,000 inhabitants, namely Rath and Mahoba, while those with over 5,000 inhabitants fell to 3 only, and the lowest class with less than 500 rose to 471.

Urban and rural.

The population of the district is essentially a rural one, for of the total number of inhabitants 91·7 live in villages and only 8·3 per cent. in towns recognised as such. Even some of the latter are extremely small, and, though population is concentrated for purposes of trade, such townships are primarily large agricultural estates and only differ from large villages in being the headquarters of a tahsil, or old decaying towns whose purely urban population is dwindling. No less than 47·7 per cent. of the population live in sites with less than 1,000 inhabitants and 29 per cent. in those which contain between 1,000 and 2,000, while only 4·7 per cent. live in the two towns of Mahoba and Rath.

Migration.

Population is affected to an appreciable extent by migration. Of all those who in 1901 gave Hamirpur as their birthplace, 89·94 per cent. were enumerated in the district where they were born, leaving only 10·06 per cent. of emigrants to other districts; 9·48 per cent. of these were found in other districts of the provinces, chiefly in Banda and Cawnpore, and to a less extent in Jhansi and

Jalaun. Against this loss must be set the gain from immigration. Of the total population 87·88 were born in the district where they were enumerated, 9·19 per cent. in contiguous districts and 2·93 per cent. in neighbouring states. Like other districts of Bundelkhand, Hamirpur is affected by immigration from the native states beyond its borders in Central India. Its total gains from immigration are 12·1 per cent., showing that its losses from emigration are more than made good.

Sex. Males numbered 230,204 in 1901 as against 228,338 females. The disproportion between the sexes thus amounts to ·8 per cent. only. In this respect there has been a notable change, for in 1872 the disproportion was 8·5 per cent. and at that time there were 915 females to every 1,000 males. Of all the districts in Bundelkhand Hamirpur has a more even proportion of the sexes than any other, exceeding Banda by a little but considerably exceeding Jalaun.

Religion. Classified according to religion the population contained 428,117 Hindus, 30,057 Musalmans, 272 Christians, 59 Jains, 25 Aryas, 8 Parsis, and 4 Sikhs. As in the rest of Bundelkhand the proportion of Musalmans to Hindus is very small, the former being only 6·6 per cent. of the whole population. Musalmans are both relatively and absolutely most numerous in Maudaha; but Rath contains a large number, and their proportion to Hindus has not perceptibly altered since the census of 1872, though there is the small difference between 6·3 in that year and 6·6 per cent. in 1901. Hamirpur was never a stronghold of Muhammadan power except for short periods, and no large population of that creed ever settled here; those that are found are found either in the neighbourhood of imperial or pargana headquarters or owe their conversion from Hinduism to the proselytising zeal of the house of Ghor or of Aurangzeb.

Hindus. The majority of the Hindu population do not appear to be committed to any particular form of religious belief; 20,908 persons or nearly 5 per cent. described themselves at the census of 1901 as Saivites, 20,205 as Lingaits, 15,242 as Monotheists and 13,963 as Vaishnavites. The only other sect at all well represented was the Ramanandi with 11,956 votaries; and the remainder of those whose denomination was specified were

followers of the Panchon Pir and Radha Swami, or were Kabirpanthis and Nanakshahis. In fact there is nothing peculiar about the religion of the district. The favourite deities are Mahadeo in his phallic form, and the monkey god Hanuman or Mahabir. Temples are not conspicuous either in number or size, and local deities as in other parts of India are numerous. In the south of the district the spirits of old Gond warriors are commonly worshipped, and are believed to confer favours on those who bring offerings to their shrines. The sacrifice of a ram in the month of *Asarh* (June-July) is also practised in many of the southern villages. The Aryas have made little headway as yet and their number has decreased since 1891, when it amounted to 37.

Chamars.

The most numerous Hindu caste is that of Chamars, who form 14·85 per cent. of the Hindu population. They number 63,580 souls and are well represented in all tahsils, though Maudaha has actually the highest proportion with 16·55 per cent., and Kulpahar the lowest with 13·18 per cent. They are the hereditary labourers of the district as in other parts of India, but they are taking up an increasingly large amount of land as tenants. With the exception of those in the lowest scale of casual labourers their position is not a bad one, and as agriculturists they are laborious and good.

Lodhis.

Next to Chamars come Lodhis with 52,737 representatives or 12·32 per cent. of the Hindu population. The Lodhant or Lodhi country, in which this caste predominates, comprises nearly the whole of pargana Rath, the southern parts of pargana Jalalpur, the northern portion of pargana Panwari-Jaitpur, parts now in Charkhari state, and a few villages of pargana Mahoba. Distributed over the present tahsils they form 20·35 per cent. of the Hindu population of Rath, 17·87 per cent. of Kulpahar and just over 8 per cent. of Mahoba; in Hamirpur tahsil their numbers are very insignificant. Within this area they form the chief cultivating and proprietary caste, their villages being generally conspicuous by an air of prosperity and by tidy cultivation. The caste is probably in the main of non-Aryan descent, and the origin of the tribal name is explained as follows: "The castes that followed the chase, not as an amusement, but as a means of

livelihood, would naturally consist exclusively of aborigines, and as a matter of fact, this is found to be the case, that all such castes have the dark complexion and other physical characteristics of lower races. Such are the Dhanuks and Lodhas, contracted forms of Dhanushka, a 'bowman', and Lubdhaka, a 'huntsman.' Those two tribes have now abandoned their hereditary occupations, the Dhanuks being ordinarily village watchmen and the Lodhas agriculturists." In Hamirpur Dhanuks only number 261, but the Lodhis are one of the best agricultural caste in the district. The Lodhis of this district belong almost entirely to the section known as Mahalodhis, which appears to be confined to Bundelkhand, and differ from the Jiriya Lodhis north of the Jumna and the Kurmi Lodhis west of the Betwa. Their origin is obscure. Some claim to be autochthonous, many villages having no tradition of immigration, but only of having themselves sent out colonies. So far as movement can be traced, the Lodhi migration seems to have been from west to east and to have been from one portion of Bundelkhand to the other; the immigrants settling sometimes peacefully, sometimes having to drive out by force of arms other races such as Bhars, Gonds or Khangars. Many traditions point to villages west of the Dhasan and Betwa as having been the source whence flowed streams of Lodhi settlers; thus Lodhis from Jaisari in tahsil Orai of the Jalaun district are said to have colonized 12½ villages in Rath and Kulpahar, the largest of these being Kaitha and Nagara; and Lodhis from Deori Sikri in tahsil Mau of the Jhansi district colonized 12 villages in Rath, among them the large villages of Itailia and Islampur. Other colonies are said to have proceeded from Kusmilia, Garha, Bandhauli Kalan, Kharka and Kuiyan in Jalaun. Indications are not wanting that their settlements are comparatively recent, and took place at dates varying from 200 to 500 years ago. At the present day the Lodhis appear to be nothing but peaceful agriculturists; but if tradition is to be believed, in earlier times they were a fighting caste, courted and feared even by Brahmans and Rajputs. The Lodhis of Karahra are said to have forced Sengar Rajputs to abandon Nathupura in Mahoba, and those of Gohand in Rath to have driven Panwars out of a neighbouring

village to Rawatpur; while the Lodhis who destroyed the Khangars of Chilli in Rath did so at the invitation of Brahmans. In the time of Chhatarsal, the Lodhis of Ghutbai near Charkhari were made *chaudhris* of 84 villages and were granted the title of Thakur or Thakuraiya, holding their estates on condition of military service. In pargana Jaitpur the colonization of many villages is said to have taken place in the reign of Chhatarsal, and other colonies arrived under his successors up to the time of Kesri Singh who died in 1817 A.D. The Lodhis allow considerable latitude in matters of inheritance, daughters succeeding to landed proprerty in default of sons. Widows are at liberty to marry again, and the women are popularly reported to be able to hold their own and to manage the men of their families. All officers have testified to the industry and ability of the caste, and to the superiority their villages enjoy over those held by other cultivating castes.

Brahmans. Third on the list come Brahmans with 48,944 members, forming 11·43 per cent. of the Hindu population. They are well distributed through all tahsils, but numerically fewest in Rath and Hamirpur where they form a little over 8 per cent. of the Hindus. In Kulpahar the proportion rises as high as 18·04 per cent., while in Mahoba it sinks to 11·06 and in Maudaha to 10·38 per cent. In the northern parganas, *viz.*, Jalalpur, Hamirpur, Sumerpur and Maudaha, they are chiefly of the Kanaujia subdivision, and in Rath, Mahoba and Kulpahar they are for the most part Jijhotias. According to the census of 1891 the numbers in both divisions were nearly equal. With the exception of those who keep shops and trade or act as *purohits* they are agriculturists, both in the capacity of landholders and as tenants. Most of the Marwari money-lenders in the district claim to be Brahmans, but they are numerically few.

Ahirs. Ahirs, with their kindred caste of Ghosis, follow Brahmans and have 30,573 representatives, forming 7·14 per cent. of the Hindu population. They are very evenly distributed in all tahsils, but neither as landholders nor as agriculturists are they important. Along the ravines of the Dhasan, Betwa, Jumna and Ken rivers they are found in largest numbers; here they combine husbandry with stock-raising, the jungles supplying

excellent pasturage for goats; and in every village they are found in small numbers in the capacity of herdsmen.

Rajputs.

Rajputs number 26,963 or 6·3 per cent. of the Hindu population. In tahsil Hamirpur they form as much as 11·13 per cent. and again in Maudaha 9·9 per cent.; but in Rath and Kulpahar they hardly exceed 2 per cent., while in Mahoba they hold an intermediate position with less than 9 per cent. The most important clan is the Bais, which has 10,037 representatives or over 37 per cent. of the total Rajput population. The vast majority of this clan are found in tahsils Hamirpur, Maudaha and Mahoba, there being less than 200 all told in Rath and Kulpahar. Their largest settlement in one place is in the enormous village of Kharela situated in pargana Muskira. All the Bais colonies claim to have proceeded originally from the well-known seat of their race at Daundia Khera in Oudh: but the various settlements appear to have been made at widely different dates, the oldest being that at Kharela. One Udut Bais is said to have come from Oudh in the time of the Chandel Rajas and to have received a *baoni* or gift of 52 villages extending from the Barwan *nala* as far south as Gugaura in Mahoba. This group was long held intact and apparently revenue-free on the condition of military service, but in Bundela times it was broken up and the Bais appear to have been forced to oust the local landholders from whom heretofore they had been content only to exact tribute. One Mandhata Singh, a descendant of Udut, is said to have received five villages as his share, including Singhanpur Baghari which the inhabitants say was not assessed to revenue till the time of Guman Singh. With some very few exceptions the Bais villages are everywhere collected in compact groups, and the landholders in each group trace their descent from a single leader, whose name has usually been preserved in the name of the village first occupied. Thus in the group of 24 villages in pargana Sumerpur, of which Bidokhar and Chhani are the principal members, the Bais trace their descent from Khande Rai, the founder of Khanreh Jar. It is probable, however, that their colonies were not all founded at the same time, but gradually; the fact that Jar is attached to some of them suggests that they were first cleared from jungle by the Rajputs; while in other cases the Bais succeeded

other settlers as at Bidokhar where Bagris were settled, and as at Sumerpur which was held by Khangars. The latter place is the centre of a group of 12 and Sayar in Maudaha the principal member of a circle of 24 villages. At Goindi in tahsil Mahoba there is a tradition that Lakhan Rao, Bais, came from Daundia-Khera and married a Chandel princess and was granted the villages of Sohas and Kailas, in the latter of which he built a fort, but that he was slain by Prithviraj Chauhan in his advance on Mahoba. The populous and prosperous villages of Kabrai and Makarbai in pargana Mahoba are the leading members of a group of eight villages which were occupied by Bais Rajputs at different times. At Makarbai, they are alleged to have massacred the Ahir inhabitants on the day of the Dewali festival, and at Kabrai they are said to have displaced the Bagri and Mauhar Rajputs. The landholders of Makarbai assert that their ancestors were appointed *chaudhris* of a group of eighty-four villages by Nawab Muhammad Khan Bangash, and that in return for their services in collecting revenue they enjoyed the eight present Bais villages in the neighbourhood free of revenue, together with a cash allowance of Rs. 500, right up to the time of the English conquest.

Parihars.

Next in importance to the Bais but far inferior to them in numbers are the Parihars, with 2,640 representatives. They are most numerous in tahsil Rath, but all tahsils contain some of this clan, Kulpahar succeeding Rath. The reason for this concentration in the westerly portion of the district is to be found in their original settlement. They claim descent from Raja Nahar Rao, who originally came from Mount Abu and settled in Jigni, now a small native state in the north-west corner of pargana Rath, where the head of the clan still resides in the enjoyment of a revenue-free grant. Raja Nahar Rao had three sons, of whom one became master of 12 villages on the Jhansi side of the Dhasan, another of 12 villages on the Hamirpur side, while the third received but a single village, Dumrai, on the Jhansi side. In 1303 *Sambat* or 1246 A.D. Bau Singh, son of Raja Ram Parihar built the fort of Ramgarh, the remains of which still exist between Majhgawan and the river; and his clan expelled from the surrounding villages the Lodhis, Jijhotia Brahmans

and other earlier occupiers of the soil. It is related that his clan built forts at Ramgarh, Panwari, Rath, Kalpi, Magraut, Chandaut and Banda (the Burha Kot). They pride themselves on their pure lineage and are very scrupulous as to the clans with whom they make matrimonial alliances. They marry their daughters to Chauhans, Bhadaurias, Rathors and Jadons, and rarely to Kachhwahas, and their sons to Chhattisi Chauhans, Bhadaurias, Gautams and Chandels, but only Chandels resident north of the Jumna. Latterly the Parihars on the Jhansi side have begun to form alliances with the Bundelkhand Chandels and other Rajputs, and are now debarred from eating *kachha* food with their brethren on the Hamirpur side. The Parihar Rajputs of Rahak (Rath), Urwara (Mahoba) and Baura (Jaitpur) are looked down upon as being of an inferior race and are believed to be the illegitimate descendants of Raja Nahar by concubines. In the semi-historical legends which have clustered round the narrative of the attack on Mahoba by Pirthviraj of Delhi, one of the most prominent figures is that of Mahil Parihar, the trusted but treacherous chief adviser of Parmal, who was married to Parmal's sister, Malhana Devi or Padmini. According to the local tradition the village of Murhari near Jaitpur was founded in *Sambat* 1137 or 1080 A.D. by Raja Udai Karan Parihar, who built a fort on the Gobardhan hill, the remains of which still exist. He is said to have belonged to the same clan as Mahil, and to have been defeated in battle by a king of Delhi.

Dikhits. In point of numbers, Dikhits with 2,306 members follow Parihars: some are found in pargana Sumerpur of the Hamirpur tahsil, but far the greatest number are in Maudaha. Tradition says that they are descended from the daughter of Hamir Deo Karchuli, the founder of Hamirpur, who married a Rajput of Koil. A son born of the union, named Ram Singh, was brought up by Hamir Deo and married the daughter of a Rajput of Amlor in tahsil Pailani of the Banda district, receiving in dowry the eastern portion of tahsil Maudaha. There is a long line of Dikhit colonies in tahsil Pailani, who trace their ancestry to Kot Jhalokhar in Oudh, and the story of the intermarriage is more than probable.

Gautams number 1,772, the majority of whom are settled in parganas Sumerpur and Maudaha. Like the Dikhits they form a colony in the northern portion of tahsil Pailani, and are immigrants from the northern side of the Jumna, their raja residing at Argal in Fatehpur. Gaurs of all divisions have 1,282 representatives and are divided into three sections, the Raj, Adh or Bhat Gaurs, Brahman Gaurs, and Chamar Gaurs. Those of Hamirpur belong almost exclusively to the first section and for the most part are congregated in a group of villages in parganas Hamirpur and Sumerpur. The tradition is that Bija Rai, a Raj Gaur, led a body of his clansmen from Ajmer and acquired for himself, after an interval, in *Sambat* 1405 or 1348 A.D. twelve villages, the first occupied being Para and the second Hareta, which he reclaimed from jungle. He had three sons, *viz.* Bir Singh, Subhat Singh and Jal Singh, the name of the last being perpetuated in the village of Jalla, in pargana Hamirpur. The Gaurs and Karchulis intermarry, and Bija Rai was in the service of Hamir Deo Karchuli. The Panwars are found in every pargana of the district, numbering 984, but are most numerous in Hamirpur and Mahoba. They say that their original seat was Dhar or Dharanagar in Central India. Their principal settlement is in 24 villages including Misripur, along the banks of the Jumna, where a colony was settled several hundred years ago by one Khuber Singh. They are said to intermarry only with Bundelas and Dhunderas. With the former at any rate they generally have a close connection; this is said to date from the time of Sohanpal Bundela, and the Panwars of Basela and four other villages in Rath call themselves Raj Panwars. This estate was acquired by one Hari Das, who was related to the ruler of the state of Beri and afterwards in the service of the Rajas of Tikamgarh and Charkhari. Many other Rajput clans are found scattered up and down the district, the most numerous being Chauhans, Kachhwahas, Sengars, Chandels and Bundelas. The two last will be noticed in more detail in chapter V.

Other Rajput clans.

The only other castes which have over 20,000 members apiece are Kachhis and Koris. Both are well represented throughout the different tahsils of the district. Kachhis are most numerous

Kachhis and Koris.

in tahsil Mahoba, where they form 9·3 per cent. of the Hindu population: in Kulpahar they form 6·9 per cent. and in Maudaha 5·5 per cent., but are not important in Hamirpur or Rath. The vast majority of the Kachhis of the district belong to the division known as Kachhwaha and claim to be descendants of the Kachhwaha Rajputs of Narwar by women of inferior caste, who migrated about 1,000 years ago. They are occupied for the most part in the good intensive form of agriculture which is devoted to the growing of vegetables and other valuable crops. Koris are found in considerable numbers in all tahsils, but with their allied caste of Kushtas are most numerous in tahsil Rath, where they form 6·6 per cent. of the total population. The majority of them belong to the Aharwar, Sankhwar and Kamariha divisions. Their profession is that of weavers, but the decay of the weaving industry has compelled many to resort to agriculture as a means of livelihood. The reason for their presence in greatest numbers in Rath is perhaps accounted for by the fact that that tahsil is close to Mau Ranipur and Gursarai, formerly two populous centres of the weaving industry and of the manufacture of country cloth.

Other Hindu castes.

Kumhars number 13,049 or 3·05 per cent. of the Hindu population and are the hereditary potters of the villages. In this capacity and as inferior cultivators they are found in all tahsils. Banias form 2·96 per cent., including Marwaris, who number all told 29. The majority belong to the Agarwal, Gahoi, Kasaundhan, Kasarwani and Umar divisions. Kurmis are scarce and only number 2,917, of whom 1,755 are in Kulpahar. Kewats are found in Hamirpur, Rath and Maudaha to the number of 7,985, chiefly in the neighbourhood of the larger rivers. Khangars and Arakhs deserve mention. The former have traditions of former greatness and have 7,092 representatives. A Khangar is said to have held Mahoba after the fall of the Chandel power, as a deputy of some Musalman governor, and Khangars were the reputed masters of the country stretching from Mahoba to the Betwa west of Jhansi for many years till their overthrow by the Bundelas. They are now the caste from which most of the *chaukidars* of the district are recruited: in this capacity they do excellent service. They still retain a few villages as landholders, and are found in all tahsils.

Akin to them are Arakhs, who however are only numerous in Hamirpur and Maudaha, numbering in all 1,590 persons. Arakhs and Khangars are generally regarded as branches of one caste, but they do not eat together: they will, however, smoke together and also with Pasis, with whose position that of these castes now closely corresponds. The landholders of Raipura Kalan near Mahoba, whose ancestors came from Garh Kurar, the old Khangar fortress near Jhansi, regard themselves as the only true Khangars in the district and speak contemptuously of the Khangars in other districts as mere Arakhs. A more numerous caste and one peculiar to this portion of the province is that of Basors, numbering 10,619 persons. They are regarded as of the sweeper caste, and are usually engaged in the lowest menial duties; but in Kulpahar they commonly take the place of Khangars as village *chaukidars*, and 41 one of them so held service in 1900.

Musalmans.

Musalmans only number 30,057 persons, forming 6·5 per cent. of the total population, of which both in wealth, intelligence and social standing they are an insignificant element. For the most part they are congregated in the towns of Rath, Maudaha, Mahoba and Panwari, all of which were probably pargana headquarters in imperial times, and two of which were intimately associated with Muhammad Khan Bangash: they are actually most numerous in Maudaha. The Musalman population appears to be composed chiefly not of immigrants but of converts, the majority of whom were Rajputs: but occasionally converts from other castes are met with, for example at Umania near Rath, where the ancestors of the present generation were Lodhis. The village of Fatehpur near Maudaha is named after Sheikh Fateh Muhammad, who is said to have received, from Aurangzeb, Maudaha and six villages in the neighbourhood revenue free for the maintenance of a saint's shrine. The Qazi family of Mahoba came from Delhi in the reign of Humayun. Of the Musalman subdivisions and castes, the only ones that exist in large numbers are those of Sheikhs, Pathans, Behnas and Saiyids. Sheikhs number 14,101 or 46·9 per cent. of the Muhammadan population: of this number Maudaha contains 4,870, and Rath 3,552. Pathans have 5,395 representatives, forming 17·9 per cent. of the Musalmans and nearly one-half again are found in Maudaha, while

of the remainder Hamirpur and Rath contain the bulk. There are 2,468 Saiyids, who comprise 8·2 per cent. of the Musalman inhabitants and are well represented in all tahsils, though again preponderant in Maudaha.

Behnas. The only interesting Musalman caste is that of Behnas, who number 3,353 persons; they are found for the most part in Rath and Kulpahar. One of the most curious and frequently recurring traditions of Bundlekhand ascribes the former occupation of ancient sites to Behnas or Dhuniyas (cotton-carders), and in several instances the number of Behnas' houses is said to have been 989. The Bhanraura *khera* at Chandauli (tahsil Rath) is said to have been the site of the houses of 989 Behnas, whose tools are found from time to time. At the neighbouring village of Rauro the legend varies, and affirms that in a depression on the Bhareswar *khera*, *dhanyaz* or earthen platters, also called *sanaki* and used by Musalmans, are buried. A similar tradition of 989 Behnas or Naddafs' houses exists at Kharka, Karmer and Khadri in tahsil Kalpi of the Jalaun district. At Siuni in pargana Jalalpur there exists an extensive mound of ruins. The story runs that in a dream Raja Parmal of Mahoba was warned to seek for an image of Mahadeo and that he, obeying the command, sought and found it at Siuni, where he built a shrine for it, and erected other temples likewise, among them one in honour of Brahma whose four-faced image still exists. The town was then four miles square and contained 10,000 houses, including those of 989 Behnas. After 150 years, in the time of Sultan Timur Shah of Delhi, the Musalman Naddafs became landholders and remained for 200 years. A *subah* appointed by the emperor of Delhi resided at Siuni, but in the reign of Aurangzeb he rebelled and ventured to coin money in his own name for all Bundelkhand; thereupon, after some time, Aurangzeb came and defeated him, and utterly destroyed the town of Siuni. It then remained deserted till it was reoccupied by Bir Singh Bundela, when Kapariyas, a wandering clan who deal in millstones, settled here and became landholders to be supplanted 100 years later by Lodhis. The site of Khanrehi Jar in pargana Sumerpur, whence the surrounding group of 24 Bais Rajput villages was colonized, is said to have been originally occupied by 1,300 Behnas,

and there is another Behna *khera* at Kharenta Buzurg in Rath.

Muhammadan shrines.

Various shrines of saints at Rath, Maudaha and other places are venerated both by Muhammadans and Hindus. The most notable of these is that of Pir Mubarak Shah at Mahoba. It is constructed out of the remains of Hindu, Jain or Buddhist buildings, and a considerable plot of land is still held revenue-free for its maintenance by the hereditary guardians. The legend preserved is as follows. The holy saint Hazrat Shah Mubarak came to Hindustan from Hari in *Sambat* 1309 or 1252 A.D., duing the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Sharqi,* the seat of Government being then at Kalinjar. He was a disciple of Saiyad Raju, who was a disciple of Jahaniya Jahangasht, probably the same as Jhamaji or Shaikh Makhdum Jahana Jahangasht, a famous prophet. Saiyid Raju despatched Mubarak Shah to Mahoba with instructions to establish a place of pilgrimage and to obtain disciples, so that princes and nobles might bring him offerings and his miraculous powers be manifested. Mubarak Shah accordingly came to Mahoba and established himself near the Madan Sagar, and warned Maniya Devi, Guraiya Devi and the rest of the two hundred deities who dwelt there that they must depart, for the place was now his. He sat down under the shade of a palm on the shore of the lake and smote his staff on the ground, whereupon all the deities vanished and next day came and made their submission to him. The Siddh Dipaknath, who dwelt in the hill of Gokhar, on the west side of Madan Sagar, hearing that a *mlechha* or unbeliever had come, thought to excel the stranger's wonders, and putting on his sandals walked forth on the water of the lake without wetting his feet. The Pir, hearing of this, bethought himself of an antelope skin given to him by Khwaja Khizr and said : "Even as Sharfe-bu-Ali Kalandar Shah of Panipat and Khwaja Mansuri of Gujerat rode on this skin, so likewise will I ride forth on it to meet the Siddh." He rode forth on the skin and met the Siddh in the middle of the lake. The Siddh demanded

* There appears to be some mistake or confusion here. The Dehli Sultan in 1252 was Nasir-ud-din Mahmud. Sultan Ibrahim of the Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur reigned from 1401 to 1440 A.D.

a pomegranate from paradise, whereupon the Pir put down his hand and by the help of God drew forth a pomegranate from under the antelope skin. The Siddh, perceiving that the fruit was from paradise, bestowed a philosopher's stone on the Pir, who threw it into the water. The Siddh said: "Give me back the stone, for from this stone are defrayed the expenses of prince and beggar." The Pir replied: "Dive and pick it up." The Siddh dived and found numberless philosopher's stones glowing on the bottom, whereupon he was astounded and straightway became the disciple of the Pir. He brought the Pir to Gokhar and, seating him on a stone bench, exhorted the 84 Siddhs who dwelt there to follow the Pir. Mubarak Shah then returned to his place and practised prayer, fasting and other austerities, and people from far and near came to visit him and became his disciples, among them being Raja Kirat Pal of Kalinjar who bestowed on the Pir, besides gold coins and other gifts, 700 *bighas* of culturable land in Richera, Pahari and Mahoba, revenue-free for ever. After Raja Kirat Pal, the shrine was successively visited and offerings made by Tughlak Shah and many other notables; and later came Chhatarsal, Harde Sah and Nawab Muhammad Khan Bangash. The shrine of Malik Husain at Mahoba commemorates a saint who is said to have come from Arabia and vanquished the Bhar raja, whose fourteen wives became *sati* without the aid of earthly fire. The spot where this event is supposed to have taken place is pointed out in *mauza* Bhatipura near the Bharokhar tank and is known as the *Chaudah Rani ki sati*. There are several *dargahs* in the district, as well as the tomb of Daler Khan at Maudaha, which are held in considerable veneration.

Malik Husain and others.

Musalman divisions and sects.

The other Muhammadan castes need not detain us long. There is a sprinkling in every tahsil of Julahas, Qassabs, Kunjras, Manihars, Churihars and similar occupational castes who have embraced the faith of Islam. The majority of the Sheikhs belong to the Qureshi and Siddiqi divisions, and of the Saiyids to the Husaini division. The Pathans are chiefly Ghoris and Yusufzais. As regards sect the vast majority are Sunnis, Shias only numbering 361.

Christianity.

The total number of Christians in the district amounted, by the enumeration of 1901, to 272 persons of both sexes. In

the case of 219 of these no denomination was returned, while of the remainder 14 were Roman Catholics, 32 belonged to the Anglican communion, and one was a Methodist. The decade has seen a considerable increase in the total number of Christians which in 1891 was recorded as 60. An American society, called the Christian Disciples, has a mission at Mahoba with branches at Rath, Maudaha and Kulpahar. The mission was opened at Mahoba in March 1895, and besides conducting evangelistic work, maintains schools, hospitals and orphanages: Mahoba has one institution of each kind; Rath and Kulpahar have both a school and a dispensary, while Maudaha has a hospital with dispensary attached. The Christian community served by the mission consists for the most part of boys and girls at present in the orphanage, or those who were formerly in it and have since settled down in the district.

Occupations.

Two-thirds of the total population or 66·89 per cent. are engaged in agriculture and its kindred pursuit, pasture. This large proportion is only to be expected from the nature of the tract which contains no large markets and has no manufactures of its own, and from the fact that it has been from time immemorial held by tribes whose only occupation is agriculture. Of the remainder 16·14 per cent. are devoted to the preparation and supply of material substances. This class includes a large variety of persons. Chief among them are those engaged in the manufacture, sale or disposal of textile fabrics and dress; these form 31·51 per cent. of the whole number. Next to them come those whose business is the provision of food and drink; these form 27·01 per cent. and are followed in turn by those occupied with wood and cane articles, 12·14 per cent., and those occupied with metals and precious stones, forming 10·80 per cent. Persons occupied with glass, earthen and stoneware comprise 7·08 and leather manufacturers 5·92 per cent.; while other classes are very scantily represented. Unskilled labourers who are not also agriculturists constitute 6·75 per cent. of the total population, and those engaged in personal services 5·48 per cent.; while 1·42 per cent. have means of subsistence which make them independent of any occupation, 1·41 per cent. are in Government service, and 1·26 per cent. earn their living by following a

professional career. Lastly, only ·65 per cent. are engaged in commerce, transport and storage, a proportion which is not likely to show much increase, and in fact since 1891 has decreased from 1·65 per cent., in spite of the opening of railways and the improvement in the means of communication and transport.

Language and literature.

The language spoken by the majority of the inhabitants is the *Bundeli* or *Bundelkhandi* variety of Hindi. There are, however, some other dialects in use. Along the banks of the Jumna, as in the neighbouring districts of Banda, Jalaun and Fatehpur, the dialect is known as *Tirhari* or "the border speech," but whereas in Jalaun this is hardly distinguishable from pure *Bundeli*, in Hamirpur it is *Bagheli*, more affected than in Banda by *Bundeli*. Thus not only are the *Bagheli* verbal past tenses found with the case of the agent with *ne* preceding as the subject, but in such cases also instances of the true past tenses of the *Bundeli* verb occur. In fact the verb takes the *Bagheli* or the *Bundeli* form much at the caprice of the speaker. In the south-east of the district, where Banaphar Rajputs reside, the dialect spoken is *Banaphari* or *Banpari*. It is a form of eastern Hindi, resembling the dialect of Banda, but showing more traces of *Bundeli*; it is also spoken in the Chandla pargana of Charkhari, the Lauri pargana of Chhatarpur, the Dharampur pargana of Panna, and in the *jagirs* of Naigawan Rebai, Gaurihar and Beri. In the same direction another recognised variety of dialect is *Kundri*, which is also found in Banda; but in Hamirpur it appears to be mainly *Bundeli* mixed with *Bagheli*, and is spoken only by about 11,000 people. Lastly in the western portion of the district the peculiar speech known as the *Lodhiyon ki boli* prevails.

Hamirpur has no extant literature of its own, and its only distinguished son is the bard Jagnak of Mahoba, who flourished at the court of Parmal in 1180 A.D., and is the reputed author of the *Alhakhand*. He also recited all over India the *Mahoba khand*, which has rendered immortal the exploits of the great twin brethren, Alha and Udal. A passing mention may be made of one Mandan of Jaitpur, who was born in 1659 A.D. and was the compiler of three extant works on composition.

Proprietary tenures.

The district contains 929 villages divided into 2,017 *mahals*. Of the latter 915 are held in *zamindari* tenure, 858 in *pattidari* tenure and 244 are *bhaiyachara*. The *taluqdari* tenure is unknown. The only one of the existing proprietary tenures that requires notice is the *bhaiyachara*, which in the earliest days of British rule excited much curiosity and for many years was a continuous source of administrative difficulty. In a letter by Mr. Waring to the Board of Commissioners, dated June 6th, 1816, he enters on the subject of this tenure at some length. "*Bhaiyachara* signifies," he says, "four brothers, and when applied to a land tenure indicates that all the cultivators of the village, with reference to the extent of their cultivation, pay alike. The village is divided into *thoks*, and these *thoks* into *behris*. The *asami* pays his *behriwar*, the *behriwar* the *thokdar* or *pattidar*, who are one and the same, and he the *lumbardar*. The *bigha* is of an uncertain size varying from 1¾ to 12 standard *bighas*. The *jama* payable to Government is allotted on this uncertain *bigha*, and unless the size of the *bigha* be known the lightness or heaviness of the *jama* cannot be ascertained." The tenure was also known as the *bhejberar* and, though occasionally differing in particulars from that of Banda, was actually the same as that found in that district. It was really the simplest and most elementary form of proprietary right: the co-sharer had merely the right to cultivate as much land as he could, and for this he paid the quota of the demand on his fields, his responsibility for the revenue rising and falling with the extent of his cultivation. In villages where the tenure prevailed the record of proprietors was simply a list of the names of the co-sharers; all cultivators who were not on the list or were not allowed the privileges of proprietors paid rent for their fields, and what remained of the public burdens of the village was assessed upon the co-sharers in proportion to the cultivation of the year. In order to facilitate the calculation of the amount due from each, a practice arose of varying the measure of land rather than the rate of money, and the result was the *bhaiyachara bigha*. Instead of the rent-rate varying with the soil, the area of the *bigha* increased as the value of the soil diminished, so that instead of the rent-rate for the best soil

being as now-a-days two or three times as great as that of the worst, the *bigha* of the worst soil was two or three times as great as that of the best. In a *bhejberar* village therefore the public burdens appear to have been distributed as follows: rent was taken from non-resident tenants and this rental was deducted from the total demand of Government, the balance being then distributed according to the cultivation of the year as calculated in *bhaiyachara bighas,* whether held by co-sharers or by the privileged resident tenants, by a *bachh* or *berar.* It was not likely that a tenure of this kind could long survive the fixation for a term of years of an assessment which allowed a clear margin of profit after the payment of revenue; for the co-sharers would insist on receiving their share of the profits of the estate, according to their ancestral shares in the village, irrespective of their actual cultivation. The repeated transfers of proprietary right moreover under our administration necessarily tended to weaken ancient customs, and its disappearance was deliberately hastened by various means such as the breaking up of old estates, owing to the difficulty of collections. In 1842 Mr. Allen says: "The *bachh* in the *bhaiyachara* villages is formed in different ways: on the cultivated area: on the total area: on the *malguzari* area: and on the fractional share. The first plan was perhaps the most common . . . for the future the amount to be paid by each sharer is fixed for the whole period of settlement." Mr. Muir writing at the same time, after instancing Patara in pargana Hamirpur, Kharela in Muskira and other unwieldy villages, says: "It has been my object in the present settlement to reduce these overgrown estates; and I am happy to say that the zamindars have not only acquiesced in the arrangement, but have been forward to accomplish it. In all cases, the greater part, in some, the whole, of the culturable land was completely divided: in others even the waste land was held separately and little more than the site of the village in common. The partition was here already effected, the *thok, behri* or *patti* required only to be delivered from the *berar* or *bachh* set on an independent footing and made a distinct *mahal.* The villages having thus been reduced to a manageable size, all that remained to secure facility to the collections was a record of the

liabilities of each set of sharers. This has been furnished by the parties themselves; so that the precise rights of every proprietor or community, and the legal demands upon them, are now ascertained and registered beyond the possibility of dispute." The *bhaiyachara* tenure as now understood in the district consists of a division of the land according to shares calculated in fractions of a rupee, without reference to ancestral holdings. Into this the old *bhejberar* tenure would naturally tend to pass, for the stronger co-sharers would have the most land and would insist upon maintaining it, while the less powerful members of the community would be left with the holdings they possessed unless they were able to secure additions from the common land. In spite of the many transfers of earlier times, the district may still be described as one of small holders. Of the *zamindari* estates 338 are held by single proprietors and 577 by more than one: among *pattidari* estates, 390 are held in the perfect form, but 468 still remain imperfect. The *bhaiyachara* tenure is still important in the two northerly parganas of Hamirpur and Sumerpur where over 39 per cent. of the cultivated area is held in it, but is very much less common elsewhere. Rath is peculiarly rich in imperfect *pattidari* estates, but these are unusually few in Maudaha. The perfect form of *pattidari* tenure exists in a fair proportion in all tahsils, but is most frequent in Mahoba. Altogether 63 per cent. of the cultivated area of the district is held by proprietary communities.

Proprietary castes.

Among the various castes Rajputs have always held a predominant position as landholders, owning no less than 28·1 per cent. of the entire district. They prevail in all tahsils, but in pargana Jalalpur do not possess more than the low proportion of 8·5 per cent., while in parganas Maudaha, Muskira, Mahoba and Kulpahar their holdings are exceeded by those of Brahmans, and in Rath and Jalalpur by those of Lodhis as well as Brahmans. Next come Brahmans with 24·1 per cent. Their possessions are fairly equally distributed over all parganas, but are actually fewest in Rath. This percentage does not include that held by Marwari Brahmans, which amounts to 7·6 per cent. of the entire district. Lodhis who come third on the list own 18·3 per cent. of the land. Their stronghold is pargana Rath, where the proportion rises as

high as 41·0 per cent., but in parganas Mahoba, Muskira, Kulpahar and Jalalpur they own from 17·9 per cent. to 26·3 per cent.: on the other hand this caste is entirely absent as a landholding one from Hamirpur, Sumerpur and Mahoba. Banias who have never been important as landlords in the district retain 7·5 per cent. of the total area, Musalmans 5·6 per cent. and Kayasths 4·7 per cent. The remainder of the district is divided up among a large number of miscellaneous castes, the most important among which is the Kurmi which owns 2 and 3 per cent. respectively in parganas Hamirpur and Sumerpur, but nothing elsewhere. These figures may be compared with those of last settlement to show the extent to which changes have taken place in the composition of the proprietary body. Rajputs and Brahmans (excluding Marwaris) held 27·7 and 23·3 per cent., in 1880 while Marwaris and Banias held 5·7 and 7·1 per cent. Musalmans and Kayasths have remained absolutely stationary, and the only important caste that has lost is the Lodhi, which in 1880 owned 20·3 per cent. of the district. In the various parganas, however, there have been considerably larger changes than the district totals would indicate. Thus in parganas Hamirpur and Muskira Rajputs have lost as much as 11·3 and 6·9 per cent. respectively, while in Maudaha, Jalalpur and Kulpahar they have gained a substantial amount. Brahmans have generally maintained their position except in Muskira and Mahoba, where they have considerably enlarged their holdings. Lodhis show in every case a decrease and appear to present a somewhat callous indifference to their losses, which have been brought about for the most part by their own extravagance. Musalmans and Banias have made important advances in pargana Hamirpur: elsewhere their gains or losses are unimportant.

Chief proprietors.

The largest revenue-paying landlords in the district are Seth Sham Karan and Shambhu Karan of Banda. Their property lies entirely in tahsil Maudaha, where they still own 12 whole villages and shares in two others assessed to a revenue of Rs. 16,277. The family is of Gujerati origin, and took up its residence in Banda during the time of the Nawab, whose financial agent Seth Sham Karan was; the family still resides in

Banda. They are now much indebted and recently two of their villages have been sold. Next to them come the Parihar Rajput families of Malehta and Majhgawan in pargana Rath. The rise of this family to importance has been very rapid. The present head of the Malehta branch is Pertab Singh, whose great-grandfather had no landed property except his ancestral share in Malehta. His sons, Indrajit and Jagatraj, set systematically to work at the acquisition of estates and soon made their family the most conspicuous in the district. The possessions of the branch at Majhgawan, of which the present head is Balbhadr Singh, have also been rapidly acquired but are much less extensive. Both families own estates scattered over other parganas beside Rath. Lala Kashi Nath of Banda pays a revenue of Rs. 6,321 on his property which lies for the most part in Hamirpur tahsil. He is the descendant of Nauniyat Rai, a well-known Kayasth *vakil* of Banda, who made large purchases in this district and the Karwi subdivision of the Banda district. The family resides in Banda. Among other large revenue-payers mention may be made of Musammat Jamna Kunwar of Imilia in pargana Muskira, Musammat Radha Bai of Jhansi, whose estates lie chiefly in the Mahoba and Maudaha tahsils, and the Dube family of Khandeh in the tahsil Banda, whose notorious ancestor Hatte Dube, by care and industry and with the aid of our courts and the opportunity afforded by the Mutiny, worked his way from small beginnings to the position of the largest landholder in the Hamirpur and Banda districts. Extravagance, litigation and bad seasons have gradually worked the ruin of the family which has parted with many of its villages. Besides these, smaller properties are owned by the Raja of Charkhari and a number of Marwaris and Banias of Hamirpur and Rath.

Prominent families.

Among landholders who are entitled to mention on account of their ancient lineage or former repute are Rao Pancham Singh of Sawasa in tahsil Kulpahar and Rao Aman Singh of Salaiya. The former is a Bundela Rajput descended from one Partabju, who founded the village of Sawasa in the Panwari pargana in the days of Raja Jagat Raj Singh of Jaitpur, the son of Chhatarsal. In return for military services rendered in the wars between the Rajas of Panna and Charkhari Partabju

obtained a pension from Raja Jagat Raj, together with the revenue-free grant of Sawasa, Indrahta, Nareri, Rawatpur, and Tikaria Panwari, and the title of Rao. The family retained the villages till the confiscation of Jaitpur in 1849, when settlement was made with the Rao and his relatives. The present holder of the title owns one-eighth of Sawasa Muaf and Rawatpur Khurd. Rao Aman Singh of Salaiya belongs to a family of Panwar Rajputs and the title was first obtained by Sabha Singh, who married a daughter of Chhatarsal. He obtained as dowry the village of Salaiya in tahsil Kulpahar which has ever since remained in the possession of his descendants. At the annexation of Panwari in 1803 the village was held in farm and this arrangement continued till the death of Rao Newal Singh. It was then assessed to revenue with his son, Rao Jawahir Singh, who died in 1883, the title and a fourth share in the village passing to his eldest son, Aman Singh, whose sister is the widow of the late *jagirdar* of the Sarila state.

Cultivating tenures.

Of the total holdings area in the years of settlement, 1906 to 1908, the proportion held by the proprietors themselves was 29 per cent.; while of the rest 67 per cent. was in the possession of cash-paying tenants, and the remaining 4 per cent. was rent-free, or held at nominal rents. Of the rent-free area the greater part was the *sir* of proprietors whose shares had been mortgaged, so that the area of proprietary cultivation may be taken as something over 30 per cent., a total which compares favourably with that of other Bundelkhand districts. The proportion held by occupancy tenants was only a little over 21 per cent. of the cash-rented holdings areas, leaving over 78 per cent. in the hands of tenants-at-will. At the previous settlement, in 1880, occupancy tenants had over 50 per cent. The decrease, however, is more apparent than real; for owing to the non-verification of records in 1906-08 tenants of over twelve years' standing were not declared to be occupancy. Practically it may be said that there has been but little change during the last thirty years.

Cultivating castes.

The chief cultivating castes are Lodhis, Brahmans and Rajputs who in the years of settlement held 25, 16 and 14 per cent. of the tenants' holdings area respectively. The first may be classed as the best and the other two as among the least efficient

of the cultivators. In addition to the land they hold as tenants these castes hold large areas of *sir* and *khudkasht* in the many villages where they are proprietors, so that the area of cultivation which is in their hands is very large. Of other castes Ahirs hold 6, Kachhis, Chamars and Musalmans 5, Banias 2 and Kurmis only one per cent. respectively. Rajputs predominate in the north-eastern parganas where they retain not much less than 30 per cent. of the land, but in Jalalpur, Rath, Muskira and Kulpahar the first place is taken by Lodhis: in Rath this clan holds 54 per cent. of the holdings area and in Jalalpur 37 per cent. Mahoba holds an intermediate position, both tribes cultivating 18 per cent. Brahmans are fairly distributed over all tahsils and parganas, and their holdings range from 11 per cent. of the tenants' area in Sumerpur and Maudaha to 21 per cent. in Kulpahar. In the riverine parganas of Hamirpur and Sumerpur and again along the Betwa in Jalalpur, Kewats are frequently met with: in the first-named tract they cultivate 11 per cent. of the tenants' land. Better distributed castes are Ahirs and Chamars, the latter being especially prominent in tahsil Hamirpur. In Rath, Kulpahar and Mahoba, Kachhis are found in large numbers, and in the last-named tahsil hold 10 per cent. of the holdings area as tenants. There is throughout the district a noticeable absence of Kurmis, who cultivate infinitesimal proportions in all parganas except Sumerpur, where their holdings aggregate only 2 per cent.

Rents. Rents in this district are almost universally paid in cash and not in kind. These rents are chargeable at traditional rates per *bigha*, this being generally the case in the black cotton plains, or are fixed by consent of the parties for particular fields. Lump rents however are very common and may be distinguished into two classes. The commoner system of lump renting is not to rate the cultivated fields of a holding separately according to their quality, but to include them in one common rent, called *thansa* : this corresponds to the *bilmuqta* of the Doab. In some cases poor land is lumped with good and the whole rent levied whether the bad land is actually cultivated or not; this is known sometimes as *polas*. Crop rents, that is rents which vary accord ing to the different crops sown, are also rare, but are still in vogue

in the case of special crops such as sugarcane and *pan*. No rent is charged for land prepared for sugarcane in the first year, but a double rent is paid when the crop is cut in the second year, and averages about Rs. 13 per acre. *Pan* land pays altogether exceptional rates. In the *Dariba* at Mahoba the rent is now usually calculated on the standard *bigha* and is nominally reported to be Rs. 32 per *bigha*. In each garden, however, the four rows of *pan* on each side are sown rent free as compensation for the cost of putting up the side screens and roof. The average rent for land actually devoted to this crop is about Rs. 70. Where *thansa* rents prevail they are not as a rule subject to change if the actually cultivated portion of the holdings alters. In a few villages, however, as for instance in Maudaha Khas and Bhainsmari, there is a regular system of remission or *chhut*. In the former village the large holdings of the numerous Sheikh community include considerable areas of fallow and at the settlement of 1880 an allowance of 20 per cent. off the recorded rents was made for assessment purposes. This was called *minhai* and is regarded as an allowance for fallow. In addition to this several of the same community claimed yearly reductions in their rents, these being recorded as *chhut*. Where special privileges however of this kind are not claimed, the conditions of the country are such that some remission of rent is generally allowed by landlords to their tenants; this takes the form of leniency in collection rather than reduction for fallow. In

Delkudel. certain villages of Kulpahar, for instance Bhatipura, a plan of varying the rates on land according to the rotation of crops is occasionally adopted, the principle of the arrangement depending on the relative degrees of exhaustion of the soil produced by different crops: *juar, kodon, bajra* and *sanwan* are regarded as the exhausting crops and the system is applied only to the poorer soils. When the land is freshly broken up from waste it is called *bangar* and pays six annas per local *bigha* only: in the second, year, if sown with barley, gram, linseed, *tili*, cotton, *san, juar, kodon* or any other crop, it is called *del* and pays a rate of Re. 1-4-0 per *bigha*. In the third or any subsequent year if any crop whatever follows the *juar, kodon, bajra* or *sanwan* of the preceding year, the land becomes *kudel* and pays only a rate of

ten annas per *bigha*; but if any crop other than the four named follows a preceding crop, the land continues *del* and continues to pay the higher rent of Re. 1-4-0. The custom of charging no rent or nominal rents for land newly broken up from waste is prevalent throughout this as other districts of Bundelkhand. It is especially applicable to heavy black soils and doubtless had its origin in the difficulty of clearing the deep rooted and deleterious grasses that run riot in such tracts. Ordinarily a field freshly broken up from the waste is only ploughed once in the first year, and the nominal rent of two annas or four annas per *bigha* is charged. The full rent is exacted either in the second or third year according to local custom, and is occasionally postponed till the fourth. In light land the full rent falls due in the second year and often in easily worked *parua* soils no privilege rent is allowed at all in the first year. The method in which this custom has been recognised for purposes of assessment at settlement will be shown in the following chapter. *Nautor.*

The question of rental incidences is greatly complicated by the extent of this area paying nominal rents, and any comparison of rents at two different periods is thereby vitiated. At the settlements which took place before that of 1906-08, no allowances were made for *nautor* land: its area was not separately extracted nor was its rental discarded before general rental incidences in the various soils were worked out or rent-rates framed. As however the standard rates framed by settlement officers for assessment purposes represented the fair letting value of each class of soil at the time the settlement was made, the fairest basis of comparison may perhaps be found in these rates. At Messrs. Allen and Muir's settlement in 1840-41 rents appear to have ranged between Rs. 4-10-0 and Rs. 3 per acre for *mar*, Rs. 3-8-0 and Rs. 2-8-0 for *kabar*, Rs. 2-6-0 and Rs. 2 for *parua*, Re. 1-12-0 and As. 14 for *rakar*. These figures are only approximate but may be considered as representative at that time of the letting value of the land. Forty years later at Mr. Neale's settlement in 1880 the rates chosen for assessment purposes varied between Rs. 4-12-5 and Rs. 2-14-3, Rs. 3-10-10 and Rs. 2-8-0, Rs. 3-13-3 and Changes in rents.

Re. 1-12-7, Rs. 2-8-3 and Rs. 1-0-3 for the same soils. The most striking feature of these two sets of figures is the practical stability of the *mar* and *kabar* rates, and the comparative large enhancement of those for *parua* and *rakar*, especially in their better varieties. Even when all allowances are made for difference in soil classification, arising from the idiosyncracies of the assessing officers, the fact remains that what have always been considered the most valuable soils of Bundelkhand have remained stationary as regards rents, while those which are commonly regarded as indifferent soils have risen in estimation. The question is an important one in a tract where so much of the soil is black soil and if the relative estimation in which the black-soil is held could be proved to have changed during the last sixty years, the change may help to explain one of the chief difficulties that have attended the fiscal administration of Bundelkhand. At the recent settlement, in 1908, the settlement officer calculated that over the whole district the rent of *mar* has fallen 6 per cent. and that of *kabar* one per cent., while that of *parua* has risen 12 per cent., that of *rakar moti* 10 per cent. and that of *rakar patli* no less than 22 per cent. Among the various parganas, there are some noticeable differences. In Hamirpur *mar* is reckoned to have depreciated 31 per cent. and in Mahoba 24 per cent., but to have risen in Rath by 14 per cent. and in parganas Muskira and Jalalpur by 4 per cent. *Kabar*, which is a more uncertain soil than *mar* and which from position, irrigation, or other advantages may vary greatly in quality, is found to have lost 27 per cent. in value in Hamirpur, 13 per cent. in Maudaha, 6 per cent. in Sumerpur, but to have risen or remained stationary in all other tracts. The rent of *parua* has risen 21 per cent. in Rath, 18 per cent. in Kulpahar, 4 per cent. in Muskira and Jalalpur, but has fallen between 3 and 7 per cent. in Hamirpur, Sumerpur and Maudaha; while of the *rakar* soils, the *moti* variety has risen in value in every case except in Hamirpur and Maudaha by 2 to 13 per cent., and the *patli* variety, except in the latter pargana alone, by 6 to 30 per cent. Taken all round the rental of the whole district is estimated to have risen during the past thirty years by 4 per cent.; it has fallen between 5 and 21 per cent. in Hamirpur,

Sumerpur, Maudaha and Mahoba, and risen between 7 and 13 per cent. in the other parganas.

It will be observed that the all-round depreciation is confined to the northern and easterly parganas, and these it will be remembered are the predominantly black soil ones. Among these Hamirpur loses the largest proportion and Sumerpur the least, the appreciation of the light soils in these tracts far from compensating for the depreciation of the black. In Mahoba the depreciation has followed similar lines, while every soil in Maudaha has lost in value. Conversely all-round appreciation is found in the west and south-westerly tracts, Rath and Jalalpur-Muskira being gainers in every soil, and Kulpahar a loser in *mar* only. Some important considerations are suggested by these figures. The most important factor governing the rise or fall in the rental value of a particular soil appears to be the character of the cultivating body; where Lodhis predominate, as in Rath and Jalalpur-Muskira, even *mar* rents rise; where Rajputs form the bulk of the cultivating body the reverse is the case: and the indifferent soils, such a light *parua* and *rakar*, in the hands of good cultivators are made to yield good crops which lead to higher rents. The proximity of the railway and markets operates in the same direction, and the greater willingness of the people to resist inroads of *kans* and the desire to avail themselves of facilities of irrigation increase the effect. The important question still remains whether the fall in the rents of *mar* and *kabar* is not due, in part at least, to a decline in the richness of those soils. Evidence on this point is mainfestly difficult to obtain, nor has the matter yet been thoroughly investigated. It may be pointed out however that the black soil of Hamirpur lies for the most part on the watersheds of the doabs into which the country is divided by its streams and rivers. These doabs are subjected to continuous scour and erosion as small drainage channels or ravines cut back into them, and *mar* and *kabar* cease in consequence to be as retentive of moisture as they were before, especially in seasons of deficient rainfall; though they do not cease to be unworkable owing to their clayey nature when the rainfall is heavy and prolonged. Portions thus fall

gradually out of cultivation and become overrun with *kans*, while the people find it more profitable to concentrate their cultivation on the soils which are no less retentive of moisture than the deteriorated *mar* and *kabar* and whose fertility can be brought up to the same level by the application of manure.

Character and condition of the people.

The most frequent charge made against the inhabitant of the district is that he is lazy and indolent by nature. The complaint is to a large extent justified, but the insecurity of agricultural conditions holds out little inducement to him to exert himself, and the rewards of thrift and industry are never very certain. His standard of living is generally humble and the spread of education has so far little affected him. He is ignorant, superstitious and wedded to ancient customs; but then again his position is, in the circumstances of the tract, hardly secure enough to justify him in forsaking all his traditionary knowledge. On the other hand, though he works little, he expects little, and his attitude towards life is one of cheerful optimism; this makes him uncomplaining in times of difficulty, and ready to make the best of the scanty resources at his disposal. In physical pluck he is not wanting; but he normally lacks moral courage and persistence, and unless he should chance to be roused to sudden passion falls a comparatively easy victim to the fraud or force of his opponents.

Neither the richer nor the poorer members of the community are ordinarily addicted to display, though on some occasions, such as marriages, they often indulge in much improvident extravagance. The clothing of the people is simple and coarse, but it is as warm and comfortable as elsewhere. What are considered inferior food grains enter into their food much more largely than in the districts of the Doab, but gram is probably as wholesome as wheat, and the larger consumption of *juar* and *bajra* does not appear to interfere with their health. Building material for the cottage is cheap, and the extensive areas of fallow and grazing land enable them to keep large numbers of milch buffaloes and goats which add materially to their comfort. There is usually no want of fuel, and in normal years at least a fair standard of comfort is maintained.

With the exception of a few strangers, money-lenders and fortunate speculators, however, both landholders and cultivators are undoubtedly poor and normally in want of money, the most indigent classes being the labourers and small proprietors in the larger *bhaiyachara* estates. Probably absolutely landless labourers are very few in number; most of them rent a few fields and carry on cultivation in addition to their ordinary occupations; while the tract in general lacks a large available supply of labour. In any case the lot of the landless labourer is not normally worse than elsewhere, though the precarious character of the seasons may often reduce him to great distress. With the petty proprietors, especially the Rajputs, it is different. They are averse to manual labour, their numbers are inevitably increasing and their resources are often considerably contracted in unpropitious seasons. It is difficult to determine the extent of their actual indebtedness, but the inquiries made recently under the Bundelkhand Encumbered Estates Act of 1903 will give some idea of it. Claims amounting to no less than of Rs. 16,63,303 were made against those proprietors who applied for relief under the benefits of the Act. The lot of the tenant body is generally considered to be a favourable one. Land is plentiful, and readily available at current rates: enhancements of rent are rare, and landlords are usually lenient in their collections at harvest time, especially if any calamity has befallen. The tenant in Bundelkhand thus enjoys considerable advantages over the tenant in the Doab, where land is scarce. Though a grasping landlord can by various means annoy and distress his tenants, he cannot in his own interests drive them to the point of deserting his village, for he would find it difficult to replace them. For the same reason he does not resist the accrual of occupancy rights; for these serve as a tie to bind the tenant to his ancestral fields. In fact the acquisition of these in land outside a tenant's original holding has hitherto seldom been objected to, and cultivators have been allowed to shift their holdings in a manner wholly unknown in the Doab. On the other hand the tenants are normally in want of money to carry on agricultural operations and indebted to the Bania; and though there are many substantial ones among them who are well equipped with funds and cattle,

they are as a class ill provided with cattte of good quality, and with money to purchase cattle and seed or to sink in improvements and in more intensive methods of husbandry. This picture is a true one for the district as a whole; but conditions vary in different villages, and it would be possible to find many in which indebtedness did not prevail to the extent suggested here, for probably the Lodhi communities of the south and east are as well off as most people of similar station in other districts of the province. That the general condition of the people has improved and is now a strong one, in spite of all the calamities of the last 16 years, is not seriously open to doubt. On the contrary, their powers of resistance to calamities and their ability to recover at once from their effects has been amply proved in recent years. Given freedom from a succession of disasters, such as befell between 1894 and 1897, their position will every year be strengthened.

CHAPTER IV.

Administration and Revenue.

The district is in the charge of a magistrate and collector, who resides at Hamirpur. The staff usually consists of a joint magistrate who is stationed at Mahoba in charge of that subdivision, and two full-powered deputy collectors, and one deputy or assistant magistrate with less than full powers. There are five tahsildars, but no honorary bench of magistrates or honorary munsif. Criminal sessions are held quarterly on the first Monday in January, April, July and October by the sessions judge of Banda, at Hamirpur; but the criminal cases from the Mahoba subdivision are heard at Banda at the same time as those tried in that district. The judicial courts are those of the munsif of Hamirpur and the subordinate judge of Banda, who are both subordinate to the judge of Banda. The rest of the district staff comprises the civil surgeon and his assistants, a deputy inspector of schools, the superintendent of police and a district surveyor. District staff.

As at present constituted the district is divided into five tahsils. That of Hamirpur itself comprises parganas Hamirpur and Sumerpur, that of Maudaha parganas Maudaha and Muskira, and that of Rath, Rath and Jalalpur. Tahsil Mahoba, consisting of the pargana of the same name, and tahsil Kulpahar, containing the two old parganas of Panwari and Jaitpur, are immediately in the charge of the subdivisional magistrate stationed at Mahoba who is subordinate to the district magistrate. Subdivisions.

This arrangement is the final outcome of a large number of changes. The country with an estimated revenue of Rs. 36,16,000 which was handed over to the British by the Peshwa, under the agreement supplemental to the treaty of Bassein in 1803, roughly comprised all that lay "below the *ghats*" east of the Dhasan river. After Nana Gobind Rao's defeat at Kalpi and the settlement effected with the Nawab Shamsher Bahadur and Himmat Bahadur Gosain, all the land now included in the Formation of the district.

district may be said to have come into the possession of the British. The Nana's possessions however were, with the exception of the town and fort of Kalpi and some villages on either side of it along the bank of the Jumna, restored to him in the following year, and they included the pargana of Mahoba in this district. The tract of country remaining in the hands of the British was formed into a single district with headquarters at Banda. It was administered at the outset by Captain John Baillie, agent for political affairs in Bundelkhand, who acted at first under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, who was assisted or more probably represented by Mr. Græme Mercer, agent to the Governor General. A very large extent of territory included within the boundaries of this tract was comprised in the *jaedad* granted to Himmat Bahadur Gosain: this stretched practically along the whole length of the Jumna from Kalpi to Allahabad. In 1804 that chieftain died and his *jaedad* lapsed: *muftis'* courts were established by Captain Baillie at Banda and Kalpi, and later in the same year the conduct of all affairs in Bundelkhand was transferred to a board of commissioners consisting of Mr. Brooke, judge of appeal at Benares as president, and of Colonel Martindell, commanding in Bundelkhand, and Captain Baillie, political agent, as members. On fiscal matters they were subordinate to the Board of Revenue at Calcutta. In May 1805 the administration of the province was handed over to the Board of Commissioners at Farrukhabad, and Bundelkhand was constituted a regular district under Mr. Brodie as judge and Mr. J. D. Erskine as collector.

The district meanwhile was constantly undergoing modification in area as agreements were made with the Bundela chiefs or banditti leaders, and the last of these was not concluded till 1812 when Kesri Singh became Raja of Jaitpur and the pargana of that name was excluded from the British possessions. On the other hand the *zila* of Kunch, which had been wrung from Jaswant Rao Holkar in 1805, but the revenues of which were handed over as a life grant to his sister, Bhima Bai Sahiba, was added to the charge of the collector of Bundelkhand, who carried on the entire administration of it. In 1817 this unwieldy tract was enriched by the *ilaqa* of Khandeh "appertaining to the pargana

of Mahoba," comprising 43 villages given up by the Wali of Jalaun in consideration of the British surrendering their claims to military or other service from him. But in March 1819 the tract was divided into two districts; the part lying roughly to the west of the Ken river being called northern Bundelkhand or Kalpi, and that to the east of that stream southern Bundelkhand or Banda. Of the former Mr. Forde was the first collector. He had his headquarters at first at Kalpi; but these were removed in 1821 to Hamirpur, where they have ever since remained. A joint magistrate and deputy collector however, stationed at Kalpi, retained separate charge, both in the criminal and revenue departments, of parganas Kalpi, Kunch and Jalalpur. In 1849 the separate charge of Kalpi was abolished and the joint magistrate was posted to Hamirpur. In 1853 Mahoba, which lapsed with the Jalaun state in 1840, and the Jaitpur Raj, which lapsed in 1849 on the death of Raja Khet Singh, were transferred to Hamirpur from the newly formed district of Jalaun which received in exchange parganas Kunch and Kalpi.

In 1822 the supervision of affairs in Bundelkhand had been transferred to the central board which had jurisdiction over the provinces of Bihar, Benares and Gorakhpur, and sat first at Patna, but afterwards at Allahabad. In 1858 the district of Hamirpur was added to the newly formed Jhansi division, but as the northern parganas were and always had been subject to the general regulations, while Mahoba and Jaitpur had formed part of a non-regulation tract, it was removed in 1863 and incorporated with the Allahabad division, parganas Mahoba and Jaitpur being brought under the general laws in force by Act XII of 1863.

Subdivisional changes.

Until 1842 parganas Rath and Jalalpur had attached to their respective borders two smaller tracts known as pargana Kharka in the one case and pargana Kharela in the other. The former of these was originally carved out of parganas Muhammadabad, Orai, Khandaut and Rath and merely meant the poor high land on the edges of certain rivers; it has long been absorbed in Rath. Pargana Jalalpur, which was in 1841 enlarged from Rath, was also increased by a large part of the small pargana of Kharela. On the other hand pargana Mahoba some years later received from Jalalpur and

Kharela 22 villages. Of these it has retained 15, the remaining 7 having been made over in 1864 to Charkhari in exchange for other villages now situated far to the south in the Central Provinces. In 1867 the headquarters of the Jalalpur tahsil, which till then had been at the town of the same name, were transferred to Muskira ,and in like manner the *tahsili* of Panwari was removed in 1865 from Sungra to Kulpahar. Again in 1876 the two parganas Panwari and Jaitpur were combined into one. In 1894 the tahsil of Jalalpur was abolished. The western part, lying roughly to the west of the Barma river, was incorporated in Rath and the eastern portion, lying to the east of that stream, under the name of Muskira was incorporated with tahsil Maudaha. At the same time the combined pargana of Panwari-Jaitpur was renamed Kulpahar and the arrangement existing at the present time came into force.

Future changes.

The constitution of the district may possibly undergo some change in the future. The inconvenient situation of the headquarters at Hamirpur, which is cut off in the rains by two swollen rivers, has long been recognised, and their transfer to some other place has been recently contemplated. Mahoba, situated as it is on the railway, has been suggested as the most suitable spot, but Rath with its rising trade has also claims to be the capital of the district. The proposed railway from Cawnpore to Banda, however, if built may modify the proposals. At the same time some redistribution of the Bundelkhand districts has been mooted, one suggestion being to hand over pargana Hamirpur with a few villages of Rath lying north of the Betwa to Jalaun and to enrich the Hamirpur district by adding to it the portions of tahsils Pailani and Banda in the Banda district lying west of the river Ken. Another sugestion is to give tahsils Mau and Garautha of the Jhansi district to Hamirpur, at the same time transfering pargana Hamirpur to Jalaun and parganas Sumerpur and Maudaha to Banda to compensate the latter district for the removal of tahsils Mau and Karwi to a new district to be formed out of those tahsils and the three tahsils lying south of the Jumna in the district of Allahabad. These proposals have been made in connection with the formation of a new Bundel-

khand division; but so far no definite action has been taken and the matter is still under discussion.

Fiscal history.

In order to understand the fiscal history clearly it is necessary to divide the district into two portions: of the twc that which comprised parganas Mahoba and Jaitpur did not come under British control till much later than the other in which is included the rest of the district. The first settlement was made by Mr. J. D. Erskine in 1806 and affected parganas Hamirpur and Jalalpur only. The revenue assessed amounted to Rs. 3,31,094, the rest of the district being for the most part included in the *jaedad* of Himmat Bahadur. Parganas Sumerpur, Maudaha, Rath and Panwari came under Mr. Erskine's jurisdiction in the following year and were assessed by him at Rs. 6,05,424. The settlement was for three years and lasted till 1810; and only one-eleventh of the estimated assets was supposed to be allowed to the proprietors. The assessments were based for the most part on the tahsildar's *daul* or estimate and on the village accounts, both of which Mr. Erskine found very unsatisfactory; but the demands were moderate and carefully distributed, and that officer appears to have formed a very fairly accurate estimate of the resources of the country and the difficulties attaching to agriculture in it.

Mr. Wauchope's settlements.

In 1810 a second settlement was made by Mr. John Wauchope for the same part of the district. It was also for three years and was followed by another carried out by the same officer in 1813. The methods pursued were the same in each case and the ultimate result differed but little: the highest demand imposed amounted to Rs. 11,08,771. Mr. Erskine's *jama* was increased 25 per cent. over the district, but the demand was not considered severe except in the case of Panwari and Rath, where the enhancement was 40 per cent., and was held to be justified by the increase of cultivation consequent on the clearing of the country of banditti. The settlement was based on the principles laid down in section 4 of Regulation IX of 1805: ordinarily 10 per cent. *malikana* and 5 per cent. for village expenses were to be left to the proprietors, but the currency in which the revenue was to be paid was altered from the coinage current in the tract to *sicca* Lucknow rupees, and the enhancement entailed by this alone was calculated to be 13½ per cent.

The data for assessment were furnished by the tahsildar's *daul*, by estimates furnished by *qanungos*, *mirdahas* and *ex-amils*, and from recorded *jamas* and collections of ten years previous to the cession. The total enhancement was severe but not excessive except in Panwari, where the pressure soon began to be felt.

Mr. Waring's settlement.

Mr. Wauchope was succeeded in 1815 by Mr. Scott Waring. An officer of boundless zeal and indefatigable industry, he made frequent investigations, visiting, as he says, most of his district, which included the whole of Banda, Hamirpur, Kalpi and Kunch, four times and all of it twice. The tract appears to have been exceedingly prosperous at the time, and the settlement officer seems to have been obsessed with the idea that he was being deceived and imposed upon by landholders and officials alike. He fully discussed each pargana in detail in his reports, giving a table of the cost of production and of the average amount of produce: he quoted Adam Smith and Malthus, and appealed occasionally to European statistics. He was considerate in cases, as for example in those of landholders who were subject to exactions from troops on the march. But deceived by the boundless prosperity he saw around him ,and led astray by the impositions which he imagined were being practised, he raised the revenue by 46 per cent. in the eastern parganas, and by 21 per cent. in Rath and Panwari, which had already been severely dealt with by Mr. Wauchope. His settlement was for five years and the total demand he imposed amounted to Rs. 14,89,421.

Mr. Valpy's settlement.

Mr. Waring was succeeded in his settlement duties by Mr. Valpy, who embraced his views with even greater enthusiasm. In 1819 Mr. Forde the collector protested against the highness of Mr. Waring's assessment, pointing out that 178 estates out of 815 had already been farmed ; while between the years 1815 and 1818 thirty-nine were sold at public auction for a price barely exceeding one-third of their yearly demand. But Mr. Valpy was not to be persuaded : he considered 15 per cent. deducted from the highest rent-roll to be a sufficient margin for the proprietors, and spared no labour to obtain a record of the highest possible rental. He encouraged communications from ousted *patwaris* and candidates expectant of promotion ; and he

regarded the natural anxiety of the evicted landholders to recover possession of their estates as proof of the lightness of their assessments. He made two quinquennial settlements; one in 1821 and the other in 1826; these differed but little from each other, and in both Mr. Waring's demands were for the most part retained. Unfavourable as Mr. Waring's assessments were, they appear to have been collected in full during the favourable season of 1820-21; but from 1822 to 1824 arrears continuously accumulated. Mr. Valpy, who had meanwhile left the district, returned to it in 1826 to resettle the resigned estates and lapsed farms. He found himself compelled to make some reductions, but they were almost entirely confined to the eastern parganas and more particularly to Sumerpur. Every sort of means was employed to ensure full or even partial collections, even to the extent of stopping the pay of tahsildars and *chaprasis*: *shahnas* or watchmen and *amins* were entertained in large numbers, and the greater part of the clerks at headquarters were deputed to take charge of different villages. The period closed in 1829-30 with a disastrous drought, during which the assessments absolutely broke down.

Mr. Ainslie's settlement.

The following year Mr. Cathcart undertook as collector the settlement of the resigned estates; these amounted to more than half the number of those in the district, the proprietors having freely availed themselves of the invitation to resign their agreements in view of resettlement under the provisions of Regulation VII of 1822. Little of the work however was done by Mr. Cathcart; and the settlement is known as that of Mr. Ainslie, who was then commissioner. "He made," says Mr. Muir, "the most extensive reductions without reference to the collector, and frequently allowed without any investigation an excessive and uncalled for decrease. The settlement of Mr. Waring resembled an auction in which the highest bidder was sure of his object. Mr. Ainslie's settlement was a lottery in which unlooked for prizes fell to those who least expected them. Glaring inequality of assessment now embittered the temper of those who received no relief, and who were already callous and burdened from continual oppression. The total demand was reduced to Rs. 11,73,497 but its inequlities only added in many cases to

the previous evils, and in others it was quite inadequate." One important suggestion was put forth by Mr. Ainslie, namely, that fixed proportions of fallow land should be allowed to remain unassessed: these proportions were one-eighth in *mar*, one-sixth in *kabar*, one-fourth in *parua* and *bhat* and one-third in *rakar* soil. It was this suggestion that was subsequently adopted and elaborated by Mr. Cadell in the settlement of the Banda district.

Mr. Pidcock's settlement.

Mr. Pidcock's settlement, carried out in 1836, embraced about one-fourth of the district. It was confined to the resigned estates; these continued to fall in in large numbers notwithstanding the reductions given by Mr. Ainslie. The actual decrease in the revenue made by Mr. Pidcock did not exceed 4 per cent, but it was distributed with great judgment. The beneficial effects of this revision were considerably enhanced by large temporary reductions; but the ultimate result was discounted by the progressive demands imposed. Mr. Muir wrote in 1842: "Though frequently the reductions were nearly commensurate with the wants of the village, yet more frequently they were far too limited. In some cases therefore the settlement has succeeded; in others it has failed; and in many, as the ultimate assessment is not reached till 1848, the trial cannot be said yet to have commenced." The district suffered terribly from the drought of 1833-34 and the famine of 1838, the results of which were pointed out by Mr. Pidcock in several letters. Although a very large portion of the balance of 1838 was suspended by Government, by far the greater portion of the sum was exacted and appropriated by the Government native officials, several of whom were convicted of embezzlement. In spite of the reductions, the yearly balances of revenue still continued to accrue and proprietors still continued to resign their estates: the speculators who had swarmed into the district during Mr. Waring's time were themselves almost ruined to a man. The Government in sanctioning the settlement for 13 years considered the distressed state of the district due as much to the seasons as to the effects of Mr. Waring's settlement; but long before the sanctioned term expired the conclusion was forced on it that the magnitude of the evils inflicted on the district were beyond

repair by revisions of the demands imposed by that officer and his disciple, Mr. Valpy, and that ungrudging reductions were imperatively called for.

The next settlement was completed in 1842 by Messrs. Allen and Muir. The former officer settled Sumerpur, Maudaha, Rath and Panwari, while the latter settled Hamirpur and Jalalpur, including a part of what is now Mahoba and called, for the sake of distinction, Jalalpur-Mahoba. Mr. Allen, with some small alterations, adopted as the first basis of his settlement the general rates fixed by Mr. Bird, senior member of the Board of Revenue in 1840-41. From these revenue rates were deduced by subtracting one-third. A second basis was formed by valuing every acre of *malguzari* cultivation at Re. 1-12-0 per acre and every acre of culturable land out of cultivation at 4 annas per acre. A third was formed by applying a rate of Re. 1-12-0 to every acre of land actually under cultivation, 12 annas to every acre of land which had been thrown out of cultivation within the last two years, 6 annas per acre to land thrown out more than two but less than ten years before settlement and 2 annas per acre to all other culturable land. In addition to the estimates of the assets obtained by these means another was obtained by the the application of the particular village rates, reduced 40 per cent., to the areas under measurement in each village by reducing the average *nikasis* or rent-rolls 30 per cent., and by reducing the highest *nikasis* 40 per cent.; and the tahsildar's *dauls* were also obtained where procurable. All these formed standards for comparison only and were little used for assessment purposes: the fiscal history of the village was always a matter of the first consequence when the *jama* came to be fixed. No classification of villages was employed. Mr. Muir's methods somewhat differed. He spent great pains in accurately classifying villages according to soil characteristics. Next, rent rates for each species of land in each class of village were discovered by local inquiry, and, based on these, average rates were assumed. These rates applied to the cultivated area furnished a *jama* which was compared with the past and present demands imposed upon the village. This *jama* was generally found to be too high, and for assessment purposes the rates were considerably reduced, especially in the lighter

Settlement of Messrs. Allen and Muir.

soils. Fallow land was entirely disregarded. This was an important new departure; and the end which Mr. Muir had in view was merely to determine a *jama*, which the history of the village showed to be reasonable and realizable in good or bad years with reference to its position, natural advantages and general condition, and without regard to rates of any sort. The assessments were calculated at two-thirds of the assets; and the settlement was confirmed for 30 years.

Early settlements of Mahoba and Jaitpur.

It will be convenient at this point to turn to the second portion of the district as now constituted. Pargana Mahoba, exclusive of that part of Jalalpur now included in it, came first under British control with the rest of Nana Gobind Rao's estate in 1838. Summary settlements were made by Lieutenant Doolan, the first superintendent of Jalaun, in 1839, for the year, at Rs. 82,125 and in 1840, for five years, at Rs. 87,702. A settlement for five years was made in 1843 by Captain Ross at Rs. 79,851; this lasted from 1845 to 1850. The pargana was again assessed in 1850 by Captain Erskine at Rs. 80,167. When the pargana was transferred from Jalaun to Hamirpur it was resettled at Rs. 67,369 by Mr. Freeling in 1855-56, and the assessments were sanctioned for 30 years. Jaitpur lapsed in 1845 and was settled for five years in 1847 at Rs. 47,614, and again in 1852 at Rs. 46,528, by the superintendents of Jalaun. On its transfer in 1853 to Hamirpur it was resettled at Rs. 40,756. During the disturbances of 1857 it became the theatre of war for contending Bundela princes and was reduced to desolation. Resettlement was taken in hand in 1864 by Mr. P. Wigram, who reduced the demand to Rs. 30,035. This however the Board of Revenue refused to sanction, and after reviewing the settlements village by village they increased the assessments to Rs. 34,298.

Working of the settlements.

Mr. Allen reduced the demand in parganas Sumerpur, Maudaha, Rath and Panwari from Rs. 7,98,634 to Rs. 6,70,972 or 19·6 per cent., and Mr. Muir that in parganas Hamirpur and Jalalpur from Rs. 3,41,395 to Rs. 3,11,759 or 9·5 per cent. The assessments brought much-needed relief, and in Sumerpur and Maudaha are reported to have worked well; while Rath was on the whole very lightly assessed. Mr. Freeling's settlement

of Mahoba was on half assets and was on the whole light, though there was inequality in the treatment of villages; and Mr. Wigram's settlement of Jaitpur as finally revised by the Board was also a light one and involved no subsequent difficulties of collection. The working of the assessments was to some extent interfered with by the disturbances attending the Mutiny, especially in Panwari-Jaitpur and Hamirpur, and *kans* committed a certain amount of damage in a few villages. Permanent reductions to the amount of Rs. 9,165 only were given during the currency of the settlements for over-assessment and on account of the inroads of *kans;* but the Mutiny was responsible for the remission of the substantial sum of Rs. 2,33,071; and other causes not specified, including hail and *kans* in Mahoba, accounted for the remission of Rs. 2,41,871 more during the same period. Transfers were numerous, but they were accompanied by a gradual increase in the market value of land, while auction sales greatly decreased in number during the last decade.

The settlement

The survey with a view to resettlement began in 1872 and was completed in 1878-79. In 1873 Mr. S. O. B. Ridsdale was appointed settlement officer with Mr. W. T. Martin as assistant. Mr. Ridsdale inspected parganas Hamirpur and Sumerpur in 1874-75, and in the following year sent up his assessment reports for the sanction of the Board of Revenue. They did not meet with immediate approval, and while the question was pending Mr. Ridsdale accepted another appointment, and Mr. Martin was also superseded by Mr. V. A. Smith. Mr. W. E. Neale was appointed settlement officer in March 1876; and it was decided that he should reinspect parganas Hamirpur and Sumerpur. Meanwhile the settlement of pargana Maudaha had been handed over to Mr. A. Cadell, settlement officer of Banda, and was assessed by that officer on somewhat different methods. In the parganas assessed by Messrs. Neale and Smith the soil was first of all as accurately as possible classified. Rent rates were sought for from known rents paid on known areas of particular soils, and from these an average rate was obtained for similar soils. This average rate was derived from both low and high as well as fair rates, and was tested with reference to rates obtaining in standard villages in each pargana

Each soil was divided into a number of separate classes according to its quality, but there was no separate village classification. The rates having been determined, the next question to decide was to what area they should be applied. The appearance of the villages and the old records conclusively proved that the area under cultivation at the time that the settlement statistics were prepared was considerably below the average: *kans* in particular and bad seasons had been responsible for a large decrease. Of the land thrown out of cultivation by *kans*, the settlement officer took only half into account in assessing; and after carefully collating all his data he added 37,762 acres as the amount necessary to bring up the area of cultivation to the normal standard. Mr. Cadell in assessing Maudaha first took as a standard the cultivated area of Mr. Allen's settlement, but his views regarding this standard were afterwards modified by his experience in the Banda district and by the inferiority of a large number of villages; and influenced by these considerations he considerably reduced his original assessments. There were differences moreover in the assumed rates adopted by Mr. Neale and Mr. Cadell; for, whereas those of Mr. Neale exceeded the ascertained all-round rates in every pargana, those in Maudaha were lower and in inferior villages were at the time of assessment further reduced. The net financial result of the entire settlement was a reduction of the demand by Rs. 9,523 only. In every pargana except Maudaha and Jalalpur there was a small increase of the revenue; in Jalalpur the decrease only amounted to 5·3 per cent.; in Maudaha on the other hand as assessed by Mr. Cadell the demand was reduced by 12·8 per cent.; and it must be further borne in mind that in every pargana, except Panwari-Jaitpur and Mahoba, the old demand was calculated at two-thirds while the new demand was assessed at only one-half of the assets.

Working of the settlement.

The settlement may be fairly summarised by saying that a revenue amounting to about 53 per cent. of the gross assets on a fair average area of cultivation was taken; and the settlement reduced, but did not remove the inequalities of the previous settlement which either was or had in process of time become unequal in its incidence. Owing to the system pursued, namely that of com-

puting the assets by valuing all cultivation at rates accepted by the settlement officer as suitable for the different soils, whether cash-rented or not, everything depended on rates. Kulpahar, with an area of 559 square miles, formed a single assessment circle and only two parganas were divided into more than one circle each. The circle rates had accordingly to be freely modified. In Hamirpur pargana the valuation was only slightly in excess of recorded rents, but rents were in 1880 much higher than they could remain when the cultivation of the *al* plant disappeared—a contingency which could not be foreseen. Sumerpur and Rath were valued less leniently than Hamirpur, but a lower percentage of the assets was taken. Maudaha faired best in the hands of Mr. Cadell; Mahoba, which was inspected partly by Mr. Neale and partly by Mr. Vincent Smith, suffered somewhat unequally, while in Jalalpur and Kulpahar the assessments were distinctly severe. In no pargana was the burden of the revenue evenly distributed, and, generally speaking, *parua* and other light soils were treated favourably at the expense of *mar*. The statistics on which the settlement was based were compiled for the years 1874 to 1876, during which the rainfall had been heavy and ill-timed. Large tracts were overrun with *kans*, and land was said to have been purposely thrown out of cultivation in view of the approaching settlement. The seasons from 1875 to 1877 were favourable, and were followed by two dry years, during which *kans* died out and cultivation spread rapidly. Except for the year 1881, steady improvement ensued till the end of 1883, when the cultivated area was 14 per cent. above the settlement standard and reached the figure of 884,121 acres, the highest ever recorded. Between 1884 and 1890 the seasons were variable and generally in one respect or other unfavourable. In the latter year balances to the amount of Rs. 22,431 accrued; but owing to the energetic steps taken to collect it during the following years until 1893 the demand, with the exception of Rs. 27,289 in that year remitted on account of damage by hail, was realized in full. In March 1892 the director of land records submitted a report regarding the resettlement of the district, the term of settlement having been only sanctioned originally

for 20 years. The Board recommended a revision, but Government disapproved and extended the period for ten years, at the same time ordering a reduction in those villages in which relief was regarded as imperative. As a result of this the demand in 53 *mahals* was reduced by Rs. 17,694. A succession of disasters now ensued. Excessive rains followed by rust ruined the crops in 1893-94 and 1894-95: 1895-96 was a year of drought, and 1896-97 of famine. At the end of 1895-96, the uncollected revenue amounted to Rs. 2,21,378, and the suspensions and arrears for 1896-97 alone reached a total of Rs. 6,07,548 or 57 per cent. of the demand. In 1897-98 Mr. S. H. Fremantle was posted to the district to revise the *jama* in overassessed villages and to propose a scheme for fluctuating assessments, as the cultivated area was 32 per cent. below the settlement standard. Mr. Fremantle's revision resulted in a reduction of the revenue by Rs. 63,930. Even then the demand remained a full one; and later Rs. 14,065 more were struck off the roll on the representations of the collector, while the Board of their own motion gave further reductions totalling Rs. 30,422. The latter were increased by Rs. 12,368 of "special" reductions granted to distressed proprietary communities. These took effect from the year 1901-02 and in that year a systematic revision of the demand in all other villages which appeared to be over-assessed was undertaken by Mr. Pim. The reductions effected by Mr. Pim were on a liberal scale; the ordinary demand was fixed at less than 50 per cent. of moderately computed assets, and special reductions in addition, amounting to 20 per cent. of the ordinary *jama*, were given in favour of hereditary proprietors. Mr. Pim's reductions on the ordinary demand amounted to Rs. 1,27,894, while the special reductions were increased from Rs. 12,358 to Rs. 42,690. The latter were intended to have effect for five years only; but at the expiration of that period they were extended for the term of the current settlement, with the result that the sum realised from the *zamindars* stood in 1905 at Rs. 7,76,445 compared with Rs. 10,67,821 fixed by Mr. Neale.

Mr. Raw's settlement.

Meanwhile rules for the revision of settlement on a fluctuating system were elaborated in connection with the Jalaun

district, and the principles were extended to the whole of Bundelkhand. The salient features of this system are the distinction drawn between established cultivation and *nautor*, the elimination and discarding of fallow rents or the portion of the rental held to belong to fallow land included in holdings, the lenient treatment of *sayar* income, and the revision of the demand every fifth year if the cultivated area rises or falls 10 per cent. By established cultivation is understood all land which has been for four years continuously cultivated in the year of verification or revision, fallows of one year only being disregarded. The charge of the settlement was entrusted to Mr. Raw in 1905; he completed operations in 1908; for 12½ months of this period he was assisted by Mr. A. F. Fremantle. The whole district, with the exception of pargana Rath,* was settled under the special rules for assessment in Bundelkhand. The system of soil classification, circle formation, and rate fixation was the same as that laid down for ordinary settlements in the province, and the only point calling for remark is the treatment accorded to *nautor*. The settlement officer assumed that in the best black soils full rent would not be taken for land newly broken up from waste until the fourth year, and that the aggregate rent for the first three years should be the same as the rent agreed on for each subsequent year. The average *nautor* rate, therefore, amounted to one-third of the rate for established cultivation. *Rakar patli* on the other hand, being as a rule only continuously cultivated for two or three years, pays full rent in the second year: the nominal rent taken in the first year was accordingly left out of account, and the *nautor* area in this soil was valued at about two-thirds of the established rate. Rates varying between one-third and two-thirds of the rate on established cultivation were applied to *parua* and the poorer black soils. The valuation was on the whole favorable, and amounted in cash rented areas to Rs. 87,664 as against a recorded rental of Rs. 1,33,305. For fallow in tenants' holdings a deduction of Rs. 62,785 was made from the recorded demand, while all fallow in assumption areas was excluded from assessment. The

* Eighteen villages of Rath, however, were given the benefit of the special rules.

additions made for *sayar* receipts amounted to Rs. 9,000; this represented the income from grazing dues and *mahua* trees, but no account was taken of this item in large *pattidari* estates. Rs. 14,835 were incorporated in the assets on account of 7,079 acres of land thrown out of cultivation; while proprietors received on account of their own cultivation allowances amounting to Rs. 95,474. The allowance given varied from 10 or 15 per cent. in the case of Lodhis to 25 per cent. in the case of Brahmans and Rajputs. The total demand fixed for the district was Rs. 8,43,888, representing a reduction of 21 per cent. on that of the previous settlement, but an enhancement of 3·2 per cent. on the ordinary and of 9·0 per cent. on the specially reduced revenue of 1901-02. The proportion of the net assets taken was 47·42 per cent. This demand will be liable to revision every fifth year, if the area under the plough varies 10 per cent. or in intermediate years, if the established cultivation decreases 15 per cent. Revenue rates were fixed by the settlement officer for application at these periodical revisions to both *nautor* and established cultivation.

Remedial legislation.

Besides the revision of the revenue demand on a system more suited to the peculiar conditions of the district, the Government has passed two important measures, one of which had for its object the relief of distressed proprietors. The Bundelkhund Encumbered Estates Act, (United Provinces Act I of 1903) was passed in 1903 and provided for the systematic investigation, followed where possible by liquidation, of the debts encumbering landed property owned by the agricultural castes of Bundelkhand. Under the provisions of the Act any member of such castes was permitted to apply to the collector, stating that his property was encumbered with private debts, and collectors were enjoined, whenever they thought it necessary, to submit applications themselves on behalf of distressed proprietors. After a preliminary scrutiny by the collector, the applications were forwarded to a commissioner appointed under the Act, who after investigation either rejected them or admitted them as suitable for inquiry by special judges, also appointed under the Act. The proceedings before the special judges were of a judicial nature; they consisted of an exhaustive scrutiny of the various claims made

against the encumbered proprietor of the amount claimed, and of the final adjudication of the sum equitably due to the claimant. The final stage was the liquidation by collectors of the awards given by the special judges. In this district, 5,166 applications were filed by proprietors themselves or by collectors, of which 4,421 were sent to the commissioner: from this number 3,487 were forwarded by the commissioner to the special judge. During the proceedings before the special judge 8,145 claims were preferred, the amount claimed being no less than Rs. 16,63,303; out of this sum claims to the value of Rs. 11,88,968 were reckoned as likely to hold good in a civil court. The amount finally allowed by the judge amounted to Rs. 7,21,246 only. In the final stage, it was found that liquidation was impossible in 285 cases; in 45 others, the award was satisfied in part only and the balance was deemed to be discharged under the Act; while in 1,708 cases, the award was discharged in full, either by the debtor himself or with the help of a loan from the Government. The sum of Rs. 3,79,122 was advanced from the public treasury for this purpose to be recovered by easy instalments.

The Alienation of Land Ac

The Act was accompanied by the Bundelkhand Alienation of Land Act (United Provinces Act II of 1903), the purport of which was to prevent proprietors of the agricultural castes from alienating their still unencumbered property or the land which had been now relieved of encumbrance. Under its provisions permanent alienations of land in Bundelkhand, except between persons not of agricultural tribes or between parties both of whom are members of the same agricultural tribe or are both members of agricultural tribes and residents of the same district, are forbidden. Temporary alienations are permitted between members of agricultural tribes and those of other castes, either in the shape of usufructuary mortgages, of mortgages without possession or of leases, but the period of twenty years is fixed as the term during which such alienation can hold good; while any condition intended to act by way of conditional sale is absolutely interdicted. Lastly, the sanction of the collector is required for all permanent alienations by agricultural tribes, the obtaining of this sanction being an essential preliminary to

the entry of the transfer in the record-of-rights; and no land belonging to a member of an agricultural tribe is permitted to be sold in execution of any decree or order of a civil or revenue court. The Act was framed on the lines of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, and is likely to exercise an important influence on the transfer of land in this portion of the province.

Police stations.

For the purposes of police administration the district was divided under the reorganization scheme of 1905 into 18 circles; the boundaries of these do not as a rule correspond with those of fiscal subdivisions. The bulk of pargana Hamirpur falls within the circle of the *sadr kotwali* at Hamirpur, while the circle of the third-class station at Kurara includes the remainder of that pargana and some villages in Jalalpur. In pargana Sumerpur there is a first-class station at Sumerpur, and a third-class station at Lalpura; the circle of the latter also includes some Jalalpur villages. The remainder of pargana Jalalpur is divided between the circles of the first-class station of Rath, the second-class station of Jariya, and the third-class stations of Jalalpur and Bewar. The villages of pargana Rath are included in the circles of Rath, Jariya and Majhgawan; the station at the last named place is also of the third-class. The villages comprised in tahsil Maudaha fall within the circles of the first-class stations of Muskira and Maudaha, while some villages also belong to the Bewar circle. In the Mahoba subdivision the greater portion of tahsil Kulpahar is distributed over the circles of Kulpahar and Ajnar, which are of the first-class, that of Panwari which is of the second-class, and that of Kashipur which is of the third-class; but some villages in the east of the tahsil belong to the Srinagar circle and to that which is controlled from the station situated at the headquarters of the subdivision. The Srinagar police station is of the second-class and is situated in the south of Mahoba tahsil: the rest of that tahsil falls within the circle of the second-class police station at Kabrai. Three outposts are maintained in addition, namely at Sisolar, Chandaut and Kharela, the last of which contains, in addition to one constable of the civil police, one head constable and three constables of the armed police. There have been considerable reductions in the number of stations during the last 30 years. Formerly there

were stations at Sisolar, Chandaut and Kharela where there are now only outposts, and the outposts at Pithaura, Kaitha, Jaitpur and Kunehta have been abolished. In addition to this, the Jariya, Panwari and Jalalpur stations have been reduced from first to second or third-class, and those at Kurara, Lalpura, Bewar, Majhgawan and Kashipur from second to third-class.

Police force.

The police force is under the control of the district superintendent of police, subordinate to whom are a reserve inspector, a prosecuting inspector and one circle inspector. The regular civil police force consists of 20 sub-inspectors, 20 head constables, and 160 men posted at the various stations; and 6 sub-inspectors, 10 head constables and 64 men in reserve at Hamirpur. The armed police comprises one sub-inspector, 18 head constables and 88 men; out of which 8 head constables and 35 men are on fixed guards, and the remainder in reserve or on miscellaneous duties at head-quarters. In addition to these, there are 86 town police enlisted under Act XX of 1856 at Hamirpur, Sumerpur, Maudaha, Mahoba, Kulpahar and Rath; 83 road police and village *chaukidars* to the number of 1,078. The road police patrol the provincial roads from Nowgong to Hamirpur and Banda; the roads from Mahoba to Kulpahar, Hamirpur to Kurara, Hamirpur to Rath, Bewar to Muskira, Rath to Panwari, Panwari to Kashipur, Panwari to Kulpahar, Rath to Jariya, Jariya to Chandaut and Kashipur to Harpalpur.

Crime.

Statistics of criminal justice and cognizable crime will be found for each year since 1896 in the appendix.* From these it will be seen that the criminal work is on the whole light, the average number of inquiries in each circle being 50 annually. The chief offences are house burglary and petty theft, the number of which is normally small but increases very largely in years of scarcity, as in other districts. Robberies and dacoities are ordinarily rare occurrences, but offences affecting life are occasionally numerous. Though offences against the public tranquillity are not many, there are every year a considerable number of persons who have to be bound over to keep the peace, mainly, it would appear, owing to the addiction of the inhabitants to some

* Appendix, tables VII and VIII.

form of criminal trespass. The number of persons bound over to be of good behaviour is not large, and on the whole the inhabitants of the district are peaceful and law-abiding.

Infanticide.

In former years the practice of female infanticide, though not widespread, was undoubtedly common in the district, especially among the Parihars and Bais Rajputs. The first repressive measures were undertaken after the introduction of Act VIII of 1870, and in 1871 a notification* was issued declaring that measures under the Act would be taken against the Dikhits, Gautams, Gaurs, Baises, Kachhwahas, Karchulis, Janwars and Panwars throughout the district, as well as against the Parihars and Sombansis of Rath, the Gaharwars of Sumerpur, the Chandels of Sumerpur and Maudaha, the Bundelas of Mahoba and the Chauhans of every pargana except Maudaha: five months later the Chauhans of Kumokhar in Maudaha were added to the list. Of all these tribes the Kachhwahas, Karchulis, Janwars, Panwars, Sombansis, Gaharwars, Chandels and Bundelas and selected families or selected villages of the remaining clans were, from time to time, withdrawn from the list of proclaimed clans as the need for repressive measures seemed no longer apparent; and in 1888 there were 1,909 families of Bais, Dikhit, Gautam, Chauhans, and Parihar Rajputs in 77 villages scattered over the district to whom suspicions of the practice still attached. In that year a detailed census of the infant population was taken; as a result of this forty families of Bais Rajputs alone living in a single village were re-proclaimed, 675 families of all clans living in 10 villages were exempted, and 291 Bais families in 10 villages were left subject to the provisions of the Act pending a further census in 1892-93. No proceedings were considered necessary against 1,203 families of all the clans living in 56 villages. When the census statistics of 1891 had been compiled the subject came again under consideration and the Act was gradually withdrawn from the whole district.

Jail.

There is one jail in Hamirpur. It is a fourth-class jail capable of accommodating less than 150 prisoners: the prisoners convicted in the Mahoba subdivision are confined in Banda jail.

* Notification no. 369A., dated March 14th, 1871.

The average number of prisoners in the Hamirpur jail during the year 1907 was 104, of which 5 were females; and prisoners are not as a rule confined in it for a longer period than two years. The institution does not differ from similar ones in other districts, the ordinary industries enforced in it being rug and mat-making, mill-grinding, oil-pressing and the like. Civil prisoners are lodged in a portion of the jail specially set apart for the purpose.

The history of excise administration in Hamirpur does not differ from that in contiguous tracts. The first system adopted under British rule was that of farming tracts, which were usually conterminous with a pargana; no more elaborate system being possible owing to the proximity of independent states and the facilities existing for the smuggling of illicit spirit over the border. In 1881 however the outstill system was started, and this has remained in force ever since. The receipts under this system have on the whole been greater than those obtained under the farming system. During the decade ending in 1896, owing to a succession of unfavourable seasons, the average receipts from the sale of country liquor were only Rs. 15,008, but during the last ten years they have risen to Rs. 16,345. The number of shops has from time to time been considerably curtailed, and has fallen from an average of 187 between 1877 and 1886 to one of 115 between 1897 and 1906. **Excise.**

In earlier years the consumption of hemp drugs was considerable, though none are manufactured in Hamirpur; and, for the four years ending in 1896, an average of 116½ maunds of *ganja*, mainly of the central Indian or *pathar* variety, was sold. In the latter year, however, a higher duty was imposed and the place of *ganja* has now largely been taken by *charas* from the Punjab. The average sales of *charas* during the ten years ending in 1907 have amounted to 5·3 maunds and of *ganja*, 2·49 maunds; while between 1893 and 1896 less than one maund of *charas* was sold. There is also a considerable demand for *bhang*, which is imported by licensed vendors, and since the imposition of the new duties on *ganja* and *charas* in 1896 the average consumption has risen from 38 to over 80 maunds. The license fees for the sale of drugs are now usually sold by auction for three years, and since Hemp drugs.

the introduction of bonded warehouses the receipts have considerably decreased. From 1877 to 1886 the license fees for the sale of drugs averaged Rs. 3,776 yearly; but since 1896 they have never reached this figure, the average for the ten years ending in 1907 being only Rs. 2,530. In 1908 there were 49 shops in the district licensed for the retail sale of drugs.

Opium.

Between 1877 and 1897 the average amount of opium consumed in the district was a little over 31 *sers*, but since the latter year only 22½ *sers* have annually been sold; the receipts at the same time have fallen from Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 11,300. Opium is purchased from Government treasuries at Rs. 18 a *ser*, and retailed by licensed vendors at four or five annas a *tola*. There were only 23 shops licensed for the sale of opium in 1908.

Income-tax.

The collection of income-tax under the present system dates from the introduction of Act II of 1886, which for the first time excluded from assessment incomes derived from agriculture. The only important modification that has since taken place has been the exemption of incomes of less than Rs. 1,000 in 1904. Statistics of assessees and collections since 1891, both for the whole district and the various tahsils, will be found in the appendix.* The average receipts for the ten years preceding 1904 were Rs. 16,530 paid by 665 assessees, while since 1904 the receipts have fallen on the average to Rs. 7,879 and the number of persons assessed to 214. Among the various tahsils Rath, owing to the number of merchants and traders in the town of Rath, pays the largest amount of the tax, followed by Kulpahar and Hamirpur: Mahoba pays the least.

Registration.

The district judge holds the office of registrar, while subordinate to him are five sub-registrars stationed at each of the tahsil headquarters: for purposes of registration each tahsil is a sub-district. The present constitution of districts and sub-districts dates from the year 1881. With the exception of Rath, where the sub-registrar is a departmental officer, the office of sub-registrar is held *ex officio* by the tahsildar. During the five years ending in 1907 the average annual income from registration has been Rs. 7,455, against an expenditure of Rs. 7,927,

* Appendix, tables XIII and XIV.

the average number of documents registered being 687. The heaviest work is done at Rath, and is approximately double that at Hamirpur and Kulpahar, while the work at Mahoba and Maudaha is very small.

Stamps.

A table given in the appendix shows the annual income derived from stamps since 1891*. Stamp duties are collected under the Indian Stamp Act (II of 1899) and the Court-Fees Act (VII of 1870). The total receipts in 1880-81 were Rs. 29,444 and these rose ten years later to Rs. 39,838. From 1897 to 1906 the average receipts have amounted to Rs. 33,432, and of this 73·11 per cent. was derived from non-judicial stamps, and 26·89 per cent. from the sale of court-fee stamps, including copies. The average annual charges during the same period have been Rs. 503.

Postal arrangements.

In earlier times the postal arrangements of the district, so far as they can be traced, did not differ from those in vogue in other regulation districts. There were general post-offices located at headquarter stations, and the mails were delivered at these by runners along the main trunk roads. The district *dák* was maintained by the district officer, who made arrangements for the distribution of letters at the various district offices in his district. The letters from the post-office were handed over to the *nazir* at the collectorate, who managed their despatch along with official letters to the district offices, the latter being usually at police stations. Paid letters were delivered by village *chaukidars* and unpaid letters by head constables, while the receipt and despatch of letters devolved on police *muharrirs*, who were allowed a commission of one-quarter anna per letter. The expenses of the runners who carried the mails and other charges were defrayed by the levy of a *dák* cess. In 1863 the imperial and district post were amalgamated and, with the introduction of Act XIV of 1866, the levy of the postal cess ceased, the entire arrangements for the delivery and despatch of letters being undertaken by the post-office, which opened regular offices where these were deemed necessary. District offices have now ceased to exist except where their maintenance would not be warranted under the commercial principles of the post-office.

* Appendix, table XII.

Post-offices.

Under the arrangments now in force the offices in the district are subject to the control of the superintendent of post-offices, Bundelkhand division, who is stationed at Jhansi. A list of all the post-offices in existence in 1908 will be found in the appendix. There are within the limits of the district 17 branch-offices, and 7 sub-offices, in addition to the head office at Hamirpur. Mail carts ply along the roads from Hamirpur to Sumerpur and Mahoba, serving Maudaha, Kabrai and Khannah, which is in the Banda district, on the way; elsewhere the carriage of letters is effected by runners. In addition to the offices actually within the district, there is a sub-office at the important town of Charkhari.

Telegraphs.

The headquarters of the district is connected by telegraph with Cawnpore, and there is a combined post and telegraph office at Hamirpur. The only other telegraph lines in the district are those which run alongside the Great Indian Peninsula railway, and the line from Mahoba to Charkhari. There are combined post and telegraph offices at both Mahoba and Charkhari.

Local self-government.

There are no municipalities in the district, and local self-government is represented by two notified areas, five Act XX towns and the district board. The two notified areas are the towns of Rath and Mahoba; these had since 1869 and 1871, respectively, been administered under Act XX of 1856, but were converted into notified areas with effect from 1st April 1908. Mahoba is now administered by a committee consisting of three members. The subdivisional officer is president, and the tahsildar of Mahoba is a member of the committee, the other two members being nominated. At Rath the number of members is two, and the office of president is filled by the tahsildar of Rath. Income is raised chiefly by a tax on persons residing or carrying on any trade or profession or owning property within the limits of the notified area, according to their circumstances and property, subject to a minimum payment of twelve annas and a maximum of Rs. 120 per annum. This income is supplemented by pound receipts in both towns, three-quarters of the income from *nazul* property in Rath, and in Mahoba by all the slaughter-house fees and weighment dues. The amount of the tax to be collected annually is fixed by the district magistrate, and details of income and expenditure will be found in the articles on those places.

The towns now administered under Act XX of 1856 comprise Maudaha, since 1860; Hamirpur and Jaitpur, since 1871; Kulpahar, since 1872; and Sumerpur, since 1893. In the case of all, income is raised by a house-tax, assessed by a *panchayat* consisting of three or five respectable inhabitants of the towns, and is expended on works of local improvement, on conservancy and on the maintenance of extra police; details of the accounts will be found in the articles on those places. All of these towns, with the exception of Hamirpur, have been brought from time to time under the operation of section 34 of the Police Act (V of 1861) and also of the Village Sanitation Act (II of 1892).

Act XX towns.

Beyond the limits of the towns local affairs are administered by the district board which dates in its present form from 1884, when it took the place of the old district committee. The board consists of an elected chairman who is generally the collector, three appointed members and 12 members annually elected for a term of three years from each tahsil, Mahoba and Hamirpur providing three and the remaining tahsils two members each. The work of the board is of the usual multifarious description, and its principal duties comprise the management of the educational, medical and veterinary establishments other than those under the direct control of Government or supported by private bodies; communications, including the local roads, ferries, bungalows and the like; and several minor departments such as the administration of cattle-pounds, portions of *nazul* land and the maintenance of roadside avenues. The income and expenditure of the board under the main heads since 1891 will be found in the appendix.*

District board.

The history of state education in Hamirpur does not begin till 1855. Before that date the only educational establishments in the district were indigenous schools, in which Sanskrit, Persian and Hindi were taught. In 1847 there were 118 of these, in the majority of which—namely, 86—Hindi was taught. It was remarked at that time that "there was not a single school nor any place exclusively appropriated to educational purposes," the school being generally held at the master's door or in the house of one of the scholars. In 1855 eight tahsili

Education.

* Appendix, table XV.

schools were founded at Hamirpur, Sumerpur, Gahrauli, Jaitpur, Maudaha, Panwari, Mahoba and Rath. After the Mutiny an educational cess of one per cent. was imposed on revenue-payers and village primary schools were introduced, and in 1861 there were 28 of these established in the district. In 1862 an Anglo-vernacular school was opened at Hamirpur, and in the following year a Government school of the middle class was started, while the number of village schools increased to 71. In 1864 a beginning was made with female education, five schools being tentatively opened; these had a reputed attendance of 54 pupils, but Government inspection was not enforced in them. In 1866 it was reported that the female schools had made great headway, and were much appreciated by the inhabitants of the villages, while two more Anglo-vernacular schools were opened under private management, but open to Government inspection, at Maudaha and Mahoba. In 1867 the Anglo-vernacular school at Hamirpur was established as an inferior *zila* school: this rendered the maintenance of a middle school at Hamirpur no longer necessary and in the same year the middle school of Panwari or Sungra, which had been moved to Kulpahar in 1866, was abolished. There were in 1870, six *tahsili* schools with an attendance of 280 scholars, 52 village schools with 1,754 pupils, and 45 indigenous private institutions providing for 556 boys. The female schools of the primary class were two in number; they were situated at Maudaha and Panwari, and had an attendance of 36 pupils. In 1880 the Government Anglo-vernacular school had 13 pupils; there were 9 vernacular establishments, an English primary school and 91 primary vernacular schools which were teaching 3,386 boys: one Government and one aided female school were attended by 34 girls.

A list of all the schools existing in 1908 will be found in the appendix, together with a table showing the number of institutions and pupils in each year since 1896.* The secondary schools are now six in number and are situated at the tahsil headquarters and at Sumerpur. The primary schools amount to 90, and are maintained by the district board, while 35 others obtain

* Appendix, table XVIII, *et seq.*

grants-in-aid. The girls' schools are at Mahoba, Bewar, Panwari, where there are two, and Rath.

Literacy.

The inhabitants of Hamirpur compare favourably with those of other districts of the United Provinces as regards literacy. At the last census 6·5 per cent. of the males and ·9 per cent. of the females, or a total proportion of 3·3 per cent, were ascertained to be able to read and write. The proportion is higher than that of Banda, but considerably below that of Jhansi and Jalaun. Of the Hindu males 6·30 per cent. and of the Musalman males 9·32 per cent. are literate. There has been considerable improvement in literacy during the last twenty years; for in 1881 only 5·0 per cent. of the males and in 1891 only 5·5 per cent. were able to read and write. The progress of female education has been more rapid, and the proportion of literates among females has risen to its present figure from ·03 in 1881 and ·05 in 1891. Of those literate in the vernacular only 87 per cent. know the Nagri and nearly 7 per cent. the Persian script, the remainder being acquainted in some degree with both.

Nazul.

There is a small area of *nazul* property in Hamirpur, which is administered either directly by the collector or is under the management of the district board. It covers a total area of 4,147 acres, out of which 2,940 acres are occupied by roads and 304 acres by buildings; the remainder, amounting to 903 acres, consists of local and imperial encamping-grounds or miscellaneous plots, which are wholly or partially leased out and bring in a small income. This miscellaneous property is largest in tahsil Kulpahar.

Medical institutions.

From very early times dispensaries have been maintained at Hamirpur, Rath and Mahoba. In 1867, on account of the distance of the sadr dispensary at Hamirpur from the town, a small building was rented in Sophiganj for the treatment of out-patients, and two years later a new building was erected between the town and Sophiganj which is known as the sadr dispensary. In addition to these institutions the railway authorities have maintained a small hospital for railway servants at Mahoba, and Hamirpur contains a police hospital. In 1902 the three district dispensaries were altered from second to third-class. In 1906 the canal department opened a small dispensary at the head works of the

Dhasan canal, and in 1907 a third-class dispensary was started at Maudaha. In the same year four mission dispensaries were established at Rath, Mahoba, Kulpahar and Maudaha. The medical needs of the district have been thus well provided for. With the exception of the sadr dispensary, these institutions provide only for the reception of out-door patients and are in the charge of hospital assistants.

Cattle-pounds.

In 1908 the district possessed 25 cattle-pounds, all of which were under the management of the district board with the exception of those at Mahoba and Rath, the control of which is vested in the committee of the notified area. Of the pounds now existing the first to be opened was that at Kulpahar: this was established in 1861. This was followed by the opening of one at Maudaha in 1863; at Rath, in 1865; at Sisolar, Muskira and Panwari in 1866; Majhgawan and Jalalpur in 1867; and at Ajnar in 1870. Those at Bewar and Srinagar were started in 1876 and 1878, and between 1880 and 1890 others were established at Jariya, Chandaut and Sayar. A number have been added since, and, besides those mentioned, pounds exist at Hamirpur, Sumerpur, Kurara, Lalpura, Patara, Kharela, Mahoba, Kabrai, Supa and Teia.

CHAPTER V.

HISTORY.

Early history.

Of the early history of the district little authentic information remains, and more or less vague tribal traditions are all the material available. The condition of the country in historical times shows that it was very largely overgrown with jungle which had been very little cleared, and it is reasonable to suppose that its condition in early times was much the same. The inhabitants were almost certainly wild forest tribes such as Gonds, Kols and Bhils, of whose previous occupation many traces still remain in village traditions. The existence of inscriptions and other remains scattered up and down the tract afford sufficient reason for the belief that, during the greater part of the first three centuries of the Christian era, Bundelkhand, including the Hamirpur district, was subject to the Gupta dynasty, but the tribes that occupied it probably maintained their autonomy while owing allegiance to the paramount lords of Northern India.

Jejaka bhukti.

The first historical notice we get of the district is obtained from the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang, in the 7th century A.D. The tract, now vaguely known as Bundelkhand, was visited and described by him in 641 or 642 A.D. under the name of *Chih-chi-t'o.** The pilgrim states that it lay more than 1,000 *li* to the north-east of Ujjain and more than 900 *li* south of Mahesvarapura. He adds that "this country was above 4,000 *li* and its capital about 15 *li* in circuit; the soil was rich, the crops abundant, and pulse and wheat were products. The majority of the people were not Buddhists, but there were some tens of monasteries with a few brethren; there were above ten Deva-temples and 1,000 professed adherents of the other systems. The king, who was a Brahman,

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* For this and Chandel history in general *vide Indian Antiquary*, May 1908. The authority for most of the facts regarding the early history of the district is Mr. Vincent Smith, whose knowledge of the tract is unrivalled.

was a firm believer in Buddhism, and encouraged men of merit, and learned authors of other lands collected here in numbers." If we assume that the distance from the kingdom of Ujjain is reckoned from its capital, the indications given will bring us to the western frontier on the Betwa river westward from Saugor. Usually the assumption is made that Khajuraho must have been the unnamed capital referred to by Hiuen Tsang; but supposing the distances to be estimated from capital to capital, Khajuraho will not suit the indication given by Hiuen Tsang because it lies south-east not south from Gwalior, which seems to be Mahesvarapura, and is too far from Ujjain. The spot that suits the bearings and indications of the Chinese pilgrim best is Eran or Erakana on the Bina river, a tributary of the Betwa, 45 miles west-north-west from Saugor. The *Chih-chi-t'o* of Hiuen Tsang represents the name *Jĕjahuti*, *Jejahoti* or *Jijhoti*,* which is still preserved in that of Jijhotia Brahmans and Banias, whose distribution at the present day marks roughly the extent of the ancient province.

The Gaharwars. The Brahman ruler of Jajhoti was probably subordinate to Harsha Vardhana, the powerful king of Thaneswar, whose authority undoubtedly extended over the district. Tradition universally affirms that, previous to the rise of the famous Chandel dynasty, Mahoba was held by Gaharwar Rajputs. How or when they obtained possession of it, we know not: probably they established an independent rule during the disturbances that ensued on the death of Harsha Vardhana. There is some reason to believe that the Gaharwar rulers of Bundelkhand were connected with the dynasty of Kanauj, and there are indications that the Chandels themselves were connected with the same ruling house, but nothing certain is known. The only point on which tradition is clear is that the Gaharwars were great tank builders and it ascribes to them the massive embankment of the Bijainagar lake. The Kandaura Tal, situated in the townships of Thanna and Paswara, is ascribed to one Kandaur Singh, an officer of the Gaharwar Raja, and there are no less than nine† other tanks situated in parganas Mahoba and

* Also *Jejakabhukti*, or *Jejakasukti* Madanpur Inscription. Cunningham A. R., Vol. X, 1898.

† J. A. S. B., 1881, prta I., p. 2.

Kulpahar which are credited with a similar origin. Their antiquity is attested by the rudeness of their construction; and the fact that not one is located more than 15 miles from Mahoba indicates that the Gaharwar principality was restricted to the immediate neighbourhood of that town.

The Parihars.

A Mahoba tradition declares that the Gaharwar dynasty was succeeded by the rule of Parihars, who were overthrown in *Samvat* 677 by Chandravarma, the first of the Chandel chiefs. Another tradition* quoted by General Cunningham states that the Parihar principality of Uchahara or Nagod was older than that of the Chandels of Mahoba and that it formerly included Mahoba and all the country to the north as far as the *ghats* and as far as Bilhari on the south, and extended to Mau Mahewa on the west, and on the east comprised most of the country now held by the Bhagels. The great lake at Bilhari called Lakshman Sagar is said to have been constructed by Lakshman Sen Parihar and the great fort of Singorgarh still further south contains a pillar bearing the name of a Parihar Raja. The eastern extension of the Parihar kingdom indicated by these remains and traditions receives some support from the fact that Ptolemy assigns this position to the *Poruari,* who are very probably the same people as the Parihars. The town of Panwari in Kulpahar is supposed to have been founded by Raja Pand, a Parihar Rajput, in A.D. 903, while the people affirm that Parihar rule preceded that of the Chandels and that the Parihar dominions extended from the Jumna to the Nerbudda. This tradition is supported by the fact that the old name of Panwari was Parharpur. Part of the town of Mahoba is still remembered as the Parihars' quarter, though no Rajputs now reside in Mahoba; and the earliest inhabitants of Ari in pargana Jaitpur are said to have been Parihars who constructed a small tank called Nadiya, which has an appearance of great antiquity. Additional evidence of the existence of Parihars in the tract which afterwards formed the Chandel kingdom is obtained from Chand's story that the chief adviser and state *kamdar* of Raja Parmal was the traitor Parihar called Mahil, and the local traditions state that the capital of the dynasty was

* J. A. S. B. *Ibid,* pp. 4 and 5. Cunningham A. R. IX, pp. 5, 9.

at Mau Sahaniya near Nowgong, and that mauza Murhari near Jaitpur was founded in *Samvat* 1137 or 1080 A.D. by Raja Udaikaran Parihar, who is said to have belonged to the same tribe as Mahil. The persistence of these traditions is sufficient to render the existence of a Parihar occupation of the southern portion of the district more than probable, while the continuance of their rule in the person of the Nagod chief not only supports the traditions but shows that the Chandel rise to power did not involve the extermination or ousting of older occupants, though it reduced them to subordination. In the time of Ibn Batuta as also in the time of Alberuni, who completed his work on India in 1031 A.D., the country was still known as *Jijhoti*, but the capital was then Khajuraho, a village 34 miles south of Mahoba. By that time the Chandel dynasty had risen to power, and from this point onwards our knowledge of the history of the tract rests on much more certain, though still meagre, foundations.

The Chandels.

The origin of the Chandels like that of all the Rajput clans is obscure. According to their own tradition they are descended from Hemavati, daughter of Hemraj, a Brahman priest in the service of the Gaharwar Raja of Kasi or Benares. Hemavati was embraced by the moon god Chandra, and he, in order to cover her shame, promised that her offspring, who was called Chandrabrahm, would rise to power and that his descendants would retain that power so long as they preserved the word *brahm* (Varma) as an affix to their name; or according to another tradition so long as they continued to shun unchastity, to avoid the vicious, lepers and one-eyed, and to take care not to slay a Brahman or to drink wine. Chandrabrahm is said to have conquered Kasi, and to have founded Kalinjar and Mahoba; and his descendants are said to have reigned at the latter place till in the twentieth generation Parmal dropped the affix and was conquered by Pirthviraj. The only significance of the story is its implied admission that the pedigree of the clan required explanation; respectability was accordingly attained by including the clan in the group of moon-descended Rajputs and by inventing a Brahman ancestress. Now the Chandel *zamindars* of Khajuraho claim to be autochthonous and to trace their origin to Maniyagarh, the ancient ruined fortress on the Ken

river not many miles distant from that place. This tradition is supported by the fact that Maniya Devi, whose shrine exists at Maniyagarh and gives the place its name, was the tutelary deity of the Chandels. The poet Chand associates Maniyagarh with a Gond chieftain; and the tradition that the Chandels were preceded at Mahoba by Gaharwars suggests the possibility that the origin of the clan is to be found in the alliance of a Gaharwar with the daughter of a local Gond chieftain. An origin of a similar character is probably to be ascribed to the Haihayas or Kulachuris of Chedi, whose capital was at Tripura or Tewar near Jabalpur, with whom the Chandels subsequently intermarried. There is nothing to show that the clan immigrated from the west and it is more than probable that a local origin, either by intermarriage between Rajputs and aborigines or by direct descent from aboriginal tribes, must be ascribed to it.

Early Chandel kings.

But whatever its origin, it is sufficiently clear that the Chandel was only one of several clans which rose to eminence during the ninth century, after the break-up of the empire ruled by Harsha Vardhana till his death in 648 A.D. The oldest dated inscription at Khajuraho is that cut on the pedestal of a statue of Hanuman which is dated in the year 316. This date is probably to be referred to the Harsha era and roughly corresponds to 922 A.D. The record was made in the reign of Harsha Deva, who was preceded by five chiefs, who are known from epigraphical evidence. The earliest of these are called Nannuka and Vakpati. The former, who was the founder of the family, is described as "the illustrious prince Nannuka" and the latter as "king Vakpati." It would seem that both these princes were small local Rajas who enjoyed some share of sovereign power. Vakpati was succeeded by his sons Jayasakti and Vijyasakti, variously called Jejjaka and Vijjaka or Vijayâ, or Jeja and Vija. The fifth member of the dynasty, Rahila, who was son of Vijayasakti, is also known by the lake and temple at the village of Rahilia which bears his name, 3 miles south of Mahoba. The date of Nannuka's accession may be fixed at 831 A.D. and that of Rahila at 900 A.D., a period of some seventy years, during which the Chandel power was consolidated. The sixth Raja, son and successor of Rahila, by

name Harsha Deva, is recorded to have placed or replaced on the throne of Kanauj a Raja named Kshitipala, who is probably the king known from other inscriptions under the names of Mahipala and Herambapala. If this be taken in connection with the ascertained fact that repeated subsequent wars took place between the Chandels and rulers of Kanauj, the inference may be drawn that Harsha Deva waged a successful war with the kingdom of Kanauj, defeated its king Kshitipala (Mahipala) and before returning home replaced him on his throne. These events may be dated approximately about 917 A.D., and this may be assumed as being very nearly the correct date at which the Chandel power developed into the equal and rival of Kanauj, which had lost its predominant position soon after the death of Bhoja I about 890 A.D.

Yasovarman: 930-950. A.D.

Yasovarman, also called Lakshavarman, the seventh Chandel king (*circ.* 930 to 950 A.D.) greatly increased the power and confirmed the stability of the dynasty by the conquest and occupation of the fortress of Kalinjar. An inscription dated 954 A.D. informs us that Yasovarman had waged successful war with the Gaudas, Khasas, Kosalas, Kasmiras, Mithilas, Malavas, Chedis and Gurjaras, and, though the version of the actual exploits of the king as given by the official panegyrist must be discounted, the fact may be accepted that Yasovarman was an aggressive monarch who fought successfully with most of the northern powers between the Himalayas and the Nerbudda. The reality of the power ascribed to him is to a large extent proved by the record of the extent of the dominions of his son Dhanga.

Dhanga 950-1000. A.D.

The western frontier of Dhanga's kingdom was marked by the town of Bhasvat "on the river of Malava", which appears to be Bhilsa on the Betwa. Its northern boundary was the Jumna, which separated Dhanga's dominions from the Gurjara kingdom of Kanauj. On the north-east his kingdom touched Gopadri or Gwalior which Vajradaman wrested from the grasp of the Kanauj sovereign and probably held as a feudatory of Dhanga. His southern neighbour was the king of Chedi. The kingdom thus described was sufficiently extensive and wealthy to supply its monarch with an ample revenue and considerable forces. Independent evidence of the Chandel power is forth-

coming from the Muhammadan historians. The occupation of Ghazni in 933-34 A.D. by the Amir Alptigin made that chieftain the neighbour of the powerful Hindu state in the Indus valley and Punjab of which the capital was Bhatinda. In 979-80 A.D. the ruler of this state was Jaipal, who advanced against Ghazni, but came to terms with the Amir Sabuktigin and retired without attacking him. In 986 A.D. Sabuktigin raided the Indian frontier, and in 988 A.D. Jaipal repeated his invasion but was compelled to retreat. The terms of the compact reached on this occasion were subsequently violated by Jaipal, and the enraged Amir mustered his forces and carried fire and sword through the kingdom of Bhatinda. To save his country from ruin Jaipal, according to Ferishta, summoned to his aid the Rajas of Dehli, Ajmer, Kalinjar and Kanauj, the combined forces of which are said to have numbered 100,000 men. This huge army encountered Sabuktigin somewhere between Bannu and Ghazni and was utterly defeated. The Raja of Kalinjar, whose contingent shared in this disastrous defeat, was Dhanga. The limits of his reign are fixed by inscriptions within the years 954 and 1002 A.D., and his life is said to have been prolonged beyond the ordinary term. He died, after he had passed the age of a hundred years, at the confluence of the Ganges and Jumna at Prayag.

Ganda A.D. 1000-1025.

Before his retirement to Prayag the aged king transmitted his crown to his son, Ganda, and it was about the same time that the Amir Sabuktigin was succeeded on the throne of Ghazni by his celebrated son, the Sultan Mahmud, who devoted all his energy during a long reign to the task of harrying the Indian idolators. Mahmud is reckoned to have made seventeen incursions into India, and the first of them which immediately concerns this district was the sixth: it took place in 1008-09 A.D. Anandpal, son and successor of Jaipal, had opposed the Muhammadan invasion of Multan and enraged the Sultan who determined to punish him. Anandpal was aided by contingents from various kingdoms, including that of Kalinjar, and joined issue with the Musalman forces at Waihind on the banks of the Indus. The Hindus nearly succeeded in obtaining a victory, but a sudden panic occasioned by the flight of Anandpal's elephant threw

the Indian ranks into confusion and turned the fortune of the day. The Raja of Kalinjar at this time was Ganda. During the course of his twelfth expedition in January 1019 A.D. Sultan Mahmud accepted the submission of the Raja of Kanauj, Rajyapala. When the raider had departed the Chandel king, Ganda, sent his son, Vidhyadhara, against Kanauj. His force captured the city and slew the Raja as a punishment for his too ready submission to the foreigner. Mahmud returned in the autumn of 1019 A.D. to avenge the death of his ally. An ally of Ganda, who appears to have been Trilochanapala, son of Rajyapala, attempted to defend the passage of the Jumna against the Sultan, but failed. The Chandel king assembled an unwieldy host to oppose the enemy but deserted with his followers during the night, leaving immense booty in the hands of the invaders. Mahmud then returned to Ghazni loaded with victory and treasure, which encouraged him to repeat his invasion. He marched from Ghazni in the autumn of 1022 A.D. and made his way to Gwalior. The ruler of that place, named Kirtiraja, made his submission and so left the road open to Kalinjar which the Sultan proceeded to invest. Ganda again played the part of coward, capitulated without striking a blow, presented the invader with three hundred elephants and immense treasure and accepted at his hands the investiture of fifteen forts, including Kalinjar.

Capture of Kalinjar

Successors of Ganda, 1025-1060 A.D.

Little is on record concerning the short reigns of Ganda's successors, Vidhyadhara, Vijayapala and Devavarman, which cover the period from 1025 to 1060 A.D. An inscription tells us that the first continued the hereditary war with Kanauj and terrified Bhojadeva, the famous Paramara King of Malava. The brother and successor of Devavarman, by name Kirtivarman, was one of the most notable members of the family. He engaged in protracted hostilities with Karna Deva or Lakshmi Karna, the powerful king of Chedi, who at first obtained decided successes over him, if he did not actually annex the kingdom of Jejakabhukti. Ultimately Kirtivarma gained a decisive victory. He is the reputed builder of the Kirat Sagar at Mahoba, and his hereditary minister Vatsaraja wrested the Deogarh district and built the famous fort of Deogarh in the Jhansi district which he named Kirtigiri in honour of his master.

Kirtivarman.

During his reign the curious play called *Prabodhachandrodaya*, or "The Rise of the Moon of Intellect," was performed at court by command of his Brahman general, Gopala. This must have taken place about 1065 A.D. : the play was composed in honour of the god Vishnu and the Vedanta philosophy, and it has an elaborate plot in which all the personages are allegorical. The prologue records that Kirtivarman had overcome and crushed the armies of Karna, who was "as terrible as the fire at the end of the world to the multitude of all princes."

Successors of Kirtivarman: A.D. 1100-1128.

Nothing is recorded concerning the political events of the short reigns of Sallakshanavarman, his son Jayavarman, or his brother Prithvivarman who reigned from about 1100 to 1128 A.D., except an allusion to a war carried on by Sallakshana varman in the Doab or Antarvedi country between the Ganges and Jumna; this probably took place against the kingdom of Kanauj. But Madanavarman who reigned about thirty-seven years, from 1128 to 1165 A.D., certainly was one of the most distinguished members of the house. The testimony of early tradition as embodied in Chand's poems agrees with that of the inscriptions in describing him as a successful warrior who largely extended the Chandel dominions. He defeated the king of Gurjara, who has been identified with Siddh Rai Jai Singh of Anhilwarra, and on the south his dominion included Bilhari and the fortress of Singorgarh. The Mau inscription records that he defeated the king of Chedi in battle, exterminated the king of Malava, and kept the king of Benares (Kasi) in friendly alliance. Madanavarma was of course the constructor of the noble lake which bears his name at Mahoba, and probably the great Bela Tal was built during his reign under his orders.

Madanavarman: A.D. 1128-1165.

The Chandel kingdom.

The scanty records thus enable us to construct a fairly consistent history of the remarkable power that still lives within the memory of the people and that left such effective monuments of its rule. Starting from their home near Maniyagarh the Chandels first formed their capital at Khajuraho, which contains a collection of perhaps the finest temples in northern India, spread northwards to Mahoba and Kalinjar, both of which were occupied early in the ninth century, and consolidated their power over the whole country stretching roughly from the

Betwa river on the west, to the Kaimur range on the east, and the Nerbudda river on the south. The religious capital of the clan would appear to have been Khajuraho, the civil capital Mahoba, and the military capital Kalinjar. Tradition ascribes to the Chandels the possession of eight great forts, *viz.* Kalinjar, Ajaigarh, Maniyagarh, Marfa, Barigarh, Maudaha, Garha and Maihar; for the last some accounts substitute Kalpi. The first four of these consist of the familiar flat-topped hills which are detached portions of the Vindhyan range, surmounted by abrupt escarpments of sandstone rock, the natural strength of which was increased by the erection of battlements. Their positions indicate that the Chandels preferred to cling to the rugged country along the Vindhyas, and it is a matter of doubt if the other four places were ever occupied by the clan as military strongholds. The discovery of land grants and distinctive Chandel architectural remains, however, show that the Chandel power was acknowledged throughout Bundelkhand. That the Chandels were ever very numerous is improbable: they appear to have formed a ruling caste holding in more or less complete subjection various races, including Gonds, Kols and Bhils. The Chandels are accredited with the possession of immense wealth, and are popularly supposed to have possessed the philosopher's stone *(paras)* by which they were enabled to turn anything into gold. The *paras* is said to have been flung by Parmal, the last Raja, into the Dhasan. Even at the present day treasure is supposed to be buried in ruined temples and other places and to be dug out by disguised Chandels. The position of the treasure is indicated in an enigma, and they alone possess the key which interprets it.

Parmal, the last Chandel Raja, and the Chandel-Chauhan war.

The immediate successor of Madanavarman was Paramardi, who came to the throne about 1165 A.D. He is the only well-known Chandel Raja and his memory has been kept alive throughout Bundelkhand by the portion of the poem of Chand Bardai known as the *Mahoba Khand*. Every Chandel king had trustworthy servants of the Banaphar clan. In the time of Paramardi, or Parmal as he is usually known, they were represented by the twin heroes Alha and Udal. Many localities are associated with the names of the champion brethren and their fame has travelled far beyond the limits of Bundelkhand.

The subject of the *Mahoba Khand* is the war between Prithvi raj Chauhan, the popular hero of Northern India, and Parmal, the last Chandel king. The latter's son, Brahmajit or Samarjit, is said to have married a daughter of the Chauhan prince much against her father's will; and this led to an estrangement, while the immediate cause of the war, according to Chand, was the slaughter by the Chandels of fifty wounded warriors belonging to the army of Prithviraj, who had taken part in the fight against Padamsen, Raja of Samudsikar. On hearing of this murder Prithviraj made preparations to attack Mahoba. Meanwhile the twin Banaphar warriors had been expelled from Mahoba by Parmal and were living at Kanauj; and Mahil and Barhat, two Parihars in the service of the Chandels, offered to betray Mahoba to Prithviraj on condition of receiving half the kingdom themselves. Pirthviraj set out with an army said to have numbered 125,000 men, and marched to Sirswagarh on the Pahuj river. Here he defeated and cut to pieces the forces of Parmal, and continued his march to Mahoba. When he arrived before that place, according to Chand, a truce was called to enable Parmal to recall his exiled chieftains; and the bard introduces us to the scene of the negotiations at Kanauj, where Jagnak, who had been sent by Parmal, is trying to induce Alha and Udal to return. "The Chauhan is encamped on the plains of Mahoba; Nar Singh and Bir Singh have fallen, Sirswa is given to the flames and the kingdom of Parmal laid waste by the Chauhan. For one month a truce has been obtained: while to you I am sent for aid in his griefs. Listen, O sons of Banaphar: sad have been the days of Malundevi [Parmal's queen] since you left Mahoba! Oft she looks towards Kanauj; and while she recalls you to mind, tears gush from her eyes and she exclaims: 'The fame of the Chandel is departing'; but when gone, O sons of Jasraj, great will be your self-accusing sorrow: yet think of Mahoba!" Udal replies: "Destruction to Mahoba! Annihilation to the Chandel who, without fault, expelled us our home: in whose service fell our father, by whom his kingdom was extended. Our heads were the pillars of Mahoba . . . . The honour of his house I have upheld —yet exile is my reward!" The messenger of Parmal finding the brothers inexorable, appeals then to their mother, who ultimately

prevails upon her sons to return and defend Mahoba. Popular tradition represents King Parmal as a coward and gives all the credit for the fight against the army of Pirthviraj to Alha and Udal. Their stand, however, was ineffective and Mahoba was occupied by Pirthviraj. The date of its overthrow is fixed in *Samvat* 1239 or 1182 A.D. by the inscription recording the conquest of Jejakabhukti set up at Madanpur by Prithviraj on his return home after his victory. Subsequently, according to Chand, Prithviraj's lieutenant, Pajun, was driven out of Mahoba by Samarjit, a son of Parmal, with the help of the Raja of of Kanauj; but Mahoba would appear to have been ever after abandoned by the Chandel kings, and their headquarters were henceforth at Kalinjar.

Capture of Kalinjar. and break up of the Chandel kingdom.

It was at this place that the "accursed Parmar" was attacked and besieged by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the lieutenant of Shahab-ud-din Ghori, in 1202 A.D. After a desperate resistance in the field, Parmal retired into the fort and then agreed to surrender. The Chandel King, however, died a natural death before he could fulfil his engagements, and his minister, Ajadeva, thought he would be able to renew the resistance, but was compelled to capitulate owing to a failure of the water supply. On Monday, the 20th of the month Rajab (April 1203 A.D.), the garrison came out in "an extreme state of weakness and destruction" and surrendered unconditionally. Qutb-ud-din then occupied Mahoba and, after conferring the government of Kalinjar on Hazabbar-ud-din Hasan Arnal, marched away to Budaun.

The history of the Chandel dynasty as one of the powers of northern India ends in 1203 A.D. with the death of Parmal and the capture of Kalinjar and Mahoba by the Muhammadan invaders. The Chandel power was crushed, and though they soon after appear to have regained possession of the fort of Kalinjar the clan was scattered and the Lord of Kalinjar became little more than a local chieftain of the fort and the territory round Khajuraho, where nearly four centuries before his clan had risen to greatness. The last glimpse of the old ruling house is afforded by the romantic history of the princess Durgavati, who is called the daughter of the Chandel Raja of Mahoba, but was in all probability that of Kirat Rai, the last Raja of Kalinjar, who

was besieged and killed by Sher Shah in 1545 A.D. She was married to the Gond Raja, Dalpat Sah of Mandla and was killed fighting the Muhammadans under Asaf Khan in 1564 A.D.

Chandel architecture and coinage.

It is impossible to leave this remarkable people without some notice of their architectural works. The northern style of temple architecture characterized by the curvilinear steeple reached its climax in the noble temples erected at Khajuraho during the reigns of Yasovarman and Dhanga, and they are justly entitled to be regarded as the standard models of the style, worthy of admiration for their harmonious design, massive dignity and rich decoration. The remains, more or less complete, of more than thirty temples are to be found at Khajuraho and the neighbouring village of Jatkari. The oldest is the hypaethral granite structure dedicated to the 64 Joginis, and the largest is the fine temple of Saiva, called Kandariya Mahadeo. The other chief shrines are the Visvanath or Lalaji temple, the Lakhsmanji Chaturbhuj or Ramachandra temple, the Ghantai, the Devi Jagadambhi, Kunwar Math, Suritang Mahadeo and the Jain temple of Jinanath. The glory of Mahoba lies in its lakes, but the ruins of some fine temples of similar, though less ornate, structure, owing to the use of granite instead of sandstone, lie in the town and in its neighbourhood. At Kalinjar and at Ajaigarh exist similar ornate shrines; and throughout the districts of Bundelkhand are scattered small temples of the familiar design embellished with handsome carving. The rare specimens of the Chandel coinage show that it was an accurate copy of that of Gangeyadeva, the famous Kulachuri Raja of Chedi. The obverse is wholly occupied by the Raja's name in bold characters, and on the reverse is the figure of Hanuman. Altogether between fifty and sixty specimens, including gold, silver and copper, are known; they begin with the reign of Kirtivarma, the 13th Raja, and end with that of Viravarma the twentieth (1245 to 1287 A.D.).

Subsequent history.

The history of the district in the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th centuries is almost a blank. After the fall of the Chandels all order disappeared from Bundelkhand never to return until the British conquest. A local tradition says that Shahab-ud-din wrested Mahoba from Samarjit and granted it to Taur Suba

who reigned for fifty years. His government not being successful, the emperor granted Mahoba to his allies, the Mewatis, who held the place for forty years: it was then attacked and plundered by Gonds from Mandla and held by them for 14 years. After this one Manmath Gaharwar of Benares, a descendant of the family who ruled Mahoba prior to the Chandels, recovered possession and the Gaharwars ruled for 100 years. Then Ajaipal and Bhar and others who were *Jogis* and great magicians, one greater than the other, and were Rajas in Ujjain advanced from that country. Ajaipal conquered Ajmer and Raja Bhar captured Mahoba, and ultimately both chiefs conquered all Hindustan. They hated the Musalmans, oppressed them and drove them out of the cities. Taur Suba is not otherwise known, but the Mughal mosque which stands on the east end of the fort hill at Mahoba and is built of the materials of a richly-adorned Jain temple was erected, it is said, by the Mewatis. A few village traditions referring to a post-Chandel occupation by Gonds exist, but the Gaharwar tradition is unsupported by any other evidence whatever. The district must have been frequently traversed by the Mughal armies which were sent out in 1233, 1247 and 1251 A.D. by successive Sultans against Kalinjar. Traditions which are better supported by independent evidence favour the view that there was a Bhar occupation of Mahoba; and a Bhar Raja, by name Kirat Singh Ju or Kirat Pal, is mentioned who appears to have ruled the country as far as Kalpi. This chieftain is said to have been destroyed by a Musalman attack led by a saint, named Malik Hasan Shah, who had been sent by the king of Arabia. The attack was probably a raid, in which the saint was the leading spirit, connected with Ala-ud-din's invasion of Malwa in 1293 A.D.; or it may have taken place in 1295 A.D. when that chief returned to Karra from his daring expedition to the Deccan, conducting his retreat "through extensive and powerful kingdoms, namely Malwa, Gondwana and Khandesh." Then, says the Mahoba tradition, the emperor of Dehli became sovereign of the country and made over Mahoba to the Khangar rulers of Garh Kurar. That Mahoba did come into the possession of the Musalmans is attested by the erection of Ghias-ud-din Tughlak's mosque there in 1322 A.D.; and there

is no reason to doubt that the Khangars as vassals of the Dehli court held sway over the country between Garh Kurar and Mahoba, their chief stronghold being at the former place, lying 17 miles north-east of Jhansi. Their rule however could not have been of long duration, for it was ended by the treachery of Arjunpal or Sohanpal Bundela about 1340 A.D. To this period is probably to be assigned the irruption and settling of the Rajput clans, such as the Mauhars, Bais and Gaurs, as well as the immigration of the Lodhis in the south-western portions of the district. No Chandel remains have been found either in Hamirpur or Sumerpur parganas, and they probably remained covered with jungle till they were cleared by new settlers.

The Muhammadans.

It is not known whether the early Bundela successors of Sohanpal exercised any authority over Mahoba or not; but it is probable that they did not, for in or about 1376 A.D. "on the side of Hindostan, on the Bengal frontier, the feof (*ikta*) of Karra and Mahoba and the *shikk* of Dalamau were placed under the charge of Malik-us-Sharq Mardan Daulat, who received the title of "Nasir-ul Mulk,"* and were soon after handed over to his son, Malik-us-Sharq Shams-ud-din Sulaiman. A few years later, or about 1383 A.D., we read that Darya Khan, son of Zafar Khan, who held charge of the province of Gujerat, was *amir*† of Mahoba: and this indicates that the government of Mahoba had been separated from that of Karra. The district unquestionably fell within the combined jurisdiction of Karra and Mahoba, but in 1399 A.D., as a result of the disorders that attended Timur's invasion, the outlying *shikks* of the Dehli empire remained in the possession of the various *amirs* and *maliks* who had previously held them. Thus the *shikk* of Mahoba and Kalpi was in the hand of Mahmud Khan, son of Malikzada Firoz, while that of Karra remained in those of Khwaja-i-Jahan. From this time onwards Mahoba appears to have become a mere dependency of Kalpi and, as might be expected from its open and assailable position, ceased to be the political centre of this portion of Bundelkhand.

* E. H. I., Vol. IV, p. 13. | † *Ibid.*, p. 15.

The coming of the Bundelas.

The Musalman power in this portion of the country was certainly ill-defined and probably did not extend far beyond the local headquarters. Kalinjar was in the possession of the Chandels and there is no record of any Muhammadan officer remaining at Mahoba. Humayun* marched though the country in 1530 and accepted the submission of the Raja of Kalinjar, but the disturbed state of the country is sufficiently shown by the fact that Sher Shah† in 1542 A.D. considered it necessary to conduct a personal expedition into Bundelkhand, in the course of which he lost his life before Kalinjar in 1545 A.D. The Chandel power did not probably extend to any portion of this district, but while successive aspirants to the Dehli throne were fighting with one another, the Bundelas were quietly utilising the time in extending their power over the country to which they subsequently gave their name. The scene of the earliest Bundela exploits lies outside the boundaries of this district, and the Bundelas do not become an important factor in the history of the tract till the beginning of the 16th century. In 1507 A.D. Rudr Pratap, the seventh in descent from Sohanpal, succeeded his father, Malkhan, and is said to have made himself master of a tract of country yielding a revenue of 1¼ crore of rupees which belonged to Ibrahim Lodi. Babar, on becoming emperor, was compelled to leave him in undisputed possession of the bulk of this, and in 1531 A.D. Rudr Pratap founded the city of Orchha. The actual extent of the Bundela power at this time is not known, but either during the lifetime of Rudr Ratap, or soon after, his third son, Udiajit, is said to have occupied Mahoba; as a result of this the southern portion of this district presumbly fell under Bundela rule. The subsequent battles fought between the imperial forces and the Bundelas appear to have been all west of the Betwa and Dhasan rivers; but with the surrender of the fortress of Kalinjar by Raja Ram Chand Bhagel in 1560 A.D. it is probable that the whole of the present district of Hamirpur, like that of Banda and Jalaun, became an integral portion of the imperial dominions.

Territorial arrangement under Akbar.

Under the systematic territorial distribution carried out by Akbar, the district of Hamirpur was divided between two

* E. H. I., vol VI., p. 9. | † E. H. I. vol. IV., p. 404 foll.

subahs. The tendency of the imperial administration, like our own, was towards large subdivisions, and in the *Ain-i-Akbari* there is no trace of the small parganas which were subsequently introduced by the Bundelas. The westerly portions of the district, comprising the present parganas of Mahoba, Muskira, Maudaha and Sumerpur, and including probably a considerable portion of other territory now lying in independent states or within the Banda district, were comprised in the three *mahals* of Maudaha, Khandela,* and Mahoba within the *sarkar* of Kalinjar and *subah* of Allahabad. The remainder of the district was distributed over the *mahals* of Rath, Khandaut, Kharela and Hamirpur, and belonged to *sarkar* Kalpi in the *subah* of Agra. The dividing line appears to have been roughly the Barma river. The largest of the imperial subdivisions was Rath with an estimated area of 510,970 bighas, paying a revenue of 9,270,894 *dams*. The *mahal* probably contained a large portion if not all of the present tahsil of Kulpahar. It furnished 3,000 foot, 70 horse and 9 elephants to the army, and judging from the high revenue paid in proportion to area, it would appear to have been then as now a well cultivated and populated tract. It is noticeable that the chief occupying caste is mentioned as Afghans and Turkomans, and in this connection it is interesting to note the traditions prevalent in Rath regarding former Musalman occupants: of any large Musalman settlement in the district we have no direct evidence. Next in importance to the *mahal* of Rath came that of Hamirpur with an estimated area of 404,797 *bighas* and a revenue of 48,03,828 *dams*. The imperial pargana lay probably like the present one entirely west of the Betwa river, but must have included all the present Baoni territory. It contributed a contingent of 2,000 foot and 200 horse to the army, but its revenue was, compared with Rath, small, and the conclusion suggested is that either the pargana contained a large extent of broken ravine country or was imperfectly cleared. The chief caste then was the Kurmi, and at the present day the pargana contains more Kurmis than any other in the district. The *mahal* of Khandaut, of which the area is not given, but which paid 30,27,917 *dams* revenue and

* *Viz.*, Khandeh.

supplied 4,000 foot and 50 horse to the army, corresponds roughly to the pargana of Jalalpur with the northern portion of Rath. The ancient site of Khandaut is pointed out as being close to the present site of Jalalpur. Parihar Rajputs were the chief caste in Khandaut, and from the present distribution of that clan it would appear that the pargana included the rugged country near Jigni. The small pargana of Kharela took its name from the large village now lying in the north of Mahoba tahsil.

Of the portion of the district that fell within the *sarkar* of Kalinjar, the small mahal of Khandela comprised portions of the present Muskira and Maudaha parganas. It had an area of 25,940 *bighas* and paid a revenue of 12,75,325 *dams*. The chief clan then as now occupying it was Bais Rajputs, and 1,500 foot with 50 horse were provided from it for the imperial armies. The high revenue, totalling 40,42,014 *dams*, which was paid by Mahoba on an area of 81,568 *bighas* suggests a high degree of development in that pargana: in addition to this it supplied 12,000 *pan* leaves, a product for which the town of Mahoba is still famous. Its contribution to the imperial forces was 3,000 foot, 100 horse and 40 elephants, and the fact that the recorded chief caste was the Bagri suggests that the pargana extended for a considerable distance beyond its present eastern boundary if not as far as the Ken river. At that time Banda was an obscure village and the traditions point to the whole country being very imperfectly cleared. Even more was this the case with Maudaha, which, while it paid a revenue of 29,98,062 *dams* on an area of 62,530 *bighas*, contributed only 400 men and 30 horsemen to the army. The monuments of imperial rule within the district are singularly few. The Muhammadan population was concentrated in the towns of Rath, Maudaha, Mahoba and Panwari, and the bulk of it dates its advent or conversion from the reign of Aurangzeb. None of these towns was the seat of civil or military authority; these were located at Kalinjar, Kalpi and Sihonda, and though Mahoba was doubtless a place of some importance during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, it ceased to be more than the headquarters of a pargana when the fort of Kalinjar was finally captured and the Muhammadan power firmly established under Akbar.

We must now return to the Bundelas. How or when they consolidated their power over the southern portion of the Hamirpur district is not precisely known. The imperial parganas of Mahoba and Rath could not have extended far south of their present boundaries, and the rugged tract beyond was probably inhabited by a variety of jungle tribes. The centre of the Bundela power was Orchha. Mahoba was certainly in the hands of the Muhammadans, and the tradition that Udiajit, third son of Rudr Pratap, established himself at Mahoba* must be interpreted to mean that he brought under his sway that portion of Bundelkhand lying south of the Hamirpur district and east of the Dhasan river, which corresponded with the old Chandel kingdom. How far this portion of the clan was independent of the major branch at Orchha or of the Muhammadan power is uncertain, but during the reigns of Akbar and his two immediate successors, no large movement of revolt or invasion on its part is recorded. We read that Udiajit and his son and successor, Premchand, doggedly maintained their hold on the country they had usurped and made Mahoba their headquarters in forays against the Musalmans and their neighbours; but these inroads were evidently of minor importance, and were not inconsistent with a nominal allegiance to the Dehli court. Premchand, who is even spoken of as holding the feof of Mahoba, left three sons, Kuar Sen, the reputed founder of Simroha; Man Sah, who dwelt at Shahpur; and Bhagwant Rai, who is said to have remained at Mahoba. The last prince was celebrated for his virtues and feared for his valour. He left a son, named Kulnandan, who became renowned for his piety and charity, and was the father of the famous Champat Rai. The latter largely lived the life of a partizan leader, and none of his exploits appear to be in any way connected with Hamirpur, of whose state we are during this period entirely ignorant. The rise of the Bundelas.

The extent of Champat Rai's dominions are unknown, and his name was soon eclipsed by that of his son, Chhatarsal. The kingdom of Mahoba, whatever that implied, descended to Ratan Sah, the eldest son of Champat Rai; but Angad Rai and Chhatarsal.

* Another account says Mahewa, and is much more likely to be the correct one. Mahewa is very close to Mau, famous afterwards as the capital of Chhatarsal, himself a direct descendant of Udiajit.

Chattarsal enlisted in the service of Nirpat Jai Singh and were present at the siege of Deogarh undertaken by Nawab Bahadur Khan. Chhatarsal is said to have greatly distinguished himself in the assault and to have been wounded. The Hindu chroniclers represent both Champat Rai and Chhatarsal as champions of Hindu independence, but the Musalman historians, with probably greater accuracy, describe them as mere freebooters intent on carving out for themselves as large a kingdom as they could. It is clear at any rate that Chhatarsal had not to free a willing population from the rule of a hated foreigner, and that some of the toughest fights he had were with Hindu clans who preferred the orderly administration in which they lived to the freebooting rule of the rising chieftain. Having risen against the imperial rule and established himself as chief of the Bundelas about 1675 A.D., he seized the opportunity of Aurangzeb's long absence in the Deccan to extend his power over the whole of the country east of the Dhasan river known by the name of Dangaia, completing his conquests with the capture of the celebrated fortress of Kalinjar about 1680 A.D. Besides other places outside the boundaries of the district, Jalalpur-Muskira and Maudaha were sacked by him; and though the Bundela arms underwent several reverses at the hands of the Muhammadan governors, the whole country from the Betwa and Kalpi to the Rewah border fell into his hands. On the accession of Bahadur Shah in 1707 A.D., through the good offices of the Khan Khanan, he was invited to court and confirmed in all the acquisitions he had made; these are said to have yielded him a revenue of nearly one million sterling, and apparently included most of this district.

Campaigns of Muhammad Khan Bangash.

On the accession of Farrukhsiyar in 1713, in return for services in the king's cause, an extensive tract, comprising the parganas of Erachh, Bhander, Kalpi, Kunch, Sihonda, Maudaha, Jalaun and Sipri, was granted to Muhammad Khan Bangash Ghazanfar Jang, generally known as the Bangash Nawab of Farrukhabad, for the support of his troops. Various persons were deputed to the charge of these, but the only one that concerns this district is Daler Khan, a *chela* of the Nawab, who was appointed to control the territory comprised in Kunch,

Maudaha and Sihonda, which appears to have been held in *jagir* by the Nawab. The Nawab was not, however, allowed to occupy the country without a struggle, for Chhatarsal in 1719 overran the whole territory as far as the Jumna, sacking Kalpi and killing Pir Ali Khan, the Nawab's *amil*. The task of chastising the Bundelas was entrusted by Muhammad Khan to Daler Khan, who was despatched with a large force. The latter marched rapidly though the country, succeeded in ejecting the enemy's *thanas* or outposts from Kalpi and Jalalpur, and fixed his headquarters at Maudaha. On May 13th, 1721, Chhatarsal advanced with nearly 30,000 horse and numerous artillery to oppose Daler Khan, whose forces numbered little more than 4,000 of all arms. The battle took place near Maudaha, and victory nearly declared for Daler Khan, who rode at the enemy with a chosen body of 500 horse and threw them into confusion. He himself, however, was wounded severely and killed; and after large losses his troops retired leaving the Bundelas masters of the field. Just about this time the Nawab was appointed governor of Allahabad, but owing to employment elsewhere it was not till 1725 that he was able to proceed in person to his *subah* or attempt to reduce it to order. In the course of six months' fighting he had overran the country from Kalpi to Sihonda, when he received orders from Dehli to proceed to Gwalior to repel the Marathas. Reluctantly the Nawab was compelled to forego the advantages he had secured, and after establishing his *thanas*, and binding the enemy by the most solemn oaths not to re-enter his *jagirs*, marched away. Taking advantage of his absence the Bundelas in the most faithless manner broke their oaths, set aside the treaty and prevented the collection of any revenue. All Bundelkhand was immediately overrun, and disturbances were raised even in the neighbourhood of Allahabad.

Second campaign.

Two years later the Nawab received orders directing him to proceed to his *subah* and restore order. Collecting an army with some difficulty and at high rates of pay, he crossed the Jumna on the 24th January 1727, rapidly reduced the forts in the south of the Banda district, and leaving his son, Qaim Khan, to invest Tarahuwan, where Chhatarsal's son, Pahar Singh, made

a determined stand, marched on Sihonda, capturing the country as he went. Advancing from Sihonda he met with continual harassment and opposition from the enemy for twenty days, and was forced to fight an obstinate engagement against the entrenched Bundelas at Inchauli* on May 12th, 1727. The enemy was finally driven out with considerable loss of men and the total loss of all their equipage and ammunition, and made off in the direction of Thanna Paswara, Salhat and Damdast. These places are described as full of high hills, deep lakes, torrent beds, ravines and thorny jungle of great extent. The Nawab estimated his own loss in the battle at 4,000 to 5,000 killed and wounded and that of the enemy at 12,000 to 13,000. The Musalman army was reduced to some 14,000 or 15,000 horse, and there was a great scarcity of water and fodder. The oral tradition of the battle gives a most romantic version, but whatever the true facts were it is clear that the Nawab was reduced to great distress and extreme need of reinforcements. On June 8th, 1727, twenty seven days after the first battle, the imperial army again advanced against the Bundela forces. The latter avoiding an engagement fled and lurked in the jungles of Salhat, between Jaitpur and Mahoba, while the forts of Barigarh† and Lahuri Jhumar‡ submitted to the parties sent out against them. The Muhammadan army them encamped one *kos* beyond Mahoba, at some two *kos* interval from the Bundelas, and heavy rain interrupted further advance. Not till five months had elapsed was any forward movement attempted, and then little progress was made owing to the vigorous opposition of the Bundelas in the thick jungles. Scattered in small parties, they continually harassed the Muhammadans, who had received no reinforcements and whose pay and provisionment cost the Nawab considerable embarrassment. On April 5th, 1728, the army reached an encampment between Salhat and Kulpahar, and on the 19th of the same month made an attack on the enemy who had strongly entrenched themselves in the thorn-covered hills west of Kulpahar. The assault on

* Nine miles west of Banda. This is the traditional place, but the description hardly fits the locality.

† Ten miles south-east of Mahoba. | ‡ Sixteen miles south-east of Mahoba.

this position was hotly contested, but was completely successful; and on the following day the Nawab was able to capture the fort of Murhari.* The Muhammadans now fixed their camp in front of Kulpahar, with Jaitpur on their right and the hills of Salhat occupied by the enemy on their left, and daily skirmishes occurred. Next the Nawab moved into the hills round Jaitpur and made preparations for the siege of that place; he effected its capture after three months, while the enemy moved south into the hills round Ajnar and Surajmau. At this period Muhammad Khan saw reason to complain bitterly of the way he was treated at court. There was a party of latent hostility against the Nawab at Dehli, and it seems probable that Chhatarsal was being secretly encouraged to resist him. One of his commanders, Muhammad Bisharat Multani, who commanded in Rath, was ordered to clear pargana Panwari of the freebooters of Darak Singh, an ally of Chhatarsal's, but only proceeded to his work when threatened with deprivation of his command. The Nawab's son, Qaim Khan, had meanwhile succeeded in reducing Tarahuwan and rejoined his father, but was almost immediately after compelled to return and reinvest that fort owing to another revolt on the part of the Bundelas. The Nawab himself, while maintaining the siege of Jaitpur, attempted to bring the Bundelas opposed to him to an action, and was so far successful that Hardi Sah and several other sons of Chhatarsal surrendered with their families while Chhatarsal himself, accompanied by a considerable force, drew near to open negotiations. Matters were reported to the emperor, but no answer was received, and at length an agreement had been reached between the parties themselves to the effect that all places occupied by the Bundelas should be given up and imperial *thanas* re-established throughout the country, when the sudden appearance of the Marathas on the 12th March 1729 turned Muhammad Khan's course of victory into defeat.

The siege of Jaitpur.

The interval of three months during which negotiations had been carried on between the Nawab and the Bundelas had been utilised by Chhatarsal to make overtures to the Peshwa, Baji Rao, whose forces at this time were operating in Malwa.

*Four miles east of Jaitpur.

Chhatarsal's relations with the Musalmans appear to have been most friendly and, there being every prospect of a speedy end to the campaign, the Nawab had allowed his allies to return home and given many of his soldiers leave of absence: in all, only some 4,000 horsemen were left with his standards, while supplies of food, fodder and ammunition were extremely short. It was not until the Marathas were within twenty miles of his camp that he became assured of their approach. By great exertions he increased his force to about 9,000 horse and the same number of foot, and threw up entrenchments round his camp. Diwan Hardi Sah, the eldest son and heir of Chhatarsal, remained so far faithful to his engagements as to take no active part in the attack, but all the other Bundela chiefs went over to the Marathas. The Maratha army was commanded by Baji Rao in person and was estimated to comprise nearly 70,000 men, besides an equal number of Bundelas. On March 12th their advance guard came within a couple of miles of the Nawab's camp and reconnoitred the position: on the 13th and 14th desultory attacks were made and some baggage animals cut off. On the 15th the Nawab attempted a *sortie*, which met with very moderate success, and gradually the Marathas closed on his position, cutting off all supplies and reducing the Muhammadan forces to the greatest distress. Meanwhile Qaim Khan, the Nawab's son, reached Supa with reinforcements and the Marathas moved off to oppose him. The opportunity was seized by most of the Nawab's soldiers to move off to Jaitpur, leaving the Nawab with only 1,000 horsemen. The Bundelas on receiving news of this set upon him, but were beaten off after a protracted fight; and the Nawab, in the hope of collecting his fugitive followers, himself retreated to Jaitpur, which he at once set about fortifying. The Marathas, having defeated Qaim Khan, then returned and completely invested the town, while Qaim Khan went off to the Doab to endeavour to obtain help from other *faujdars* for his father. Ere he could return, however, the Bundelas had extracted from the hard-pressed Nawab a written agreement never to attack them again and to be content with the tribute which had been formerly paid. The siege of Jaitpur lasted three months and

ten days, from the middle of May till the end of August 1729, and its capitulation put an end for ever to the imperial authority in this portion of Bundelkhand.

Partition of Chhatarsal's dominions.

Chhatarsal, restored to his possessions by Maratha aid and seeing that without their assistance and protection his power would be lost as easily as it had been acquired, determined to make the Marathas interested in its preservation. Shortly before his death in 1731 he drew up a will, by which he bequeathed one-third of his dominions to the Peshwa Baji Rao, on the condition that his heirs and successors should be maintained by the Marathas in possession of the rest. The country bequeathed to the Peshwa consisted of Kalpi, Hatta, Saugor, Jhansi, Sironj, Kuna, Garhakota, Hardi Nagar, and, in this district, the large pargana of Mahoba : the revenues of these tracts amounted to nearly thirty-one lakhs of rupees. The remainder of Chhatarsal's dominions was divided into two separate states, the Panna Raj, comprising Kalinjar, Mohan, Erachh and other places, which fell to his eldest son, Hardi Sah, and the Jaitpur Raj, with a revenue of nearly thirty-one lakhs of rupees, which comprised most of this district with parts of Banda, Ajaigarh, Charkhari and other now independent territory, which was given to his second son, Jagat Raj.

Successors of Chhatarsal.

During the reign of Jagat Raj, his eldest son, Diwan Kirat Singh, obtained a substantial tract of country round Sihonda in *jagir* and predeceased his father. On Jagat Raj's death in 1758, after 27 years of peaceful rule, there began one of those family quarrels which were the bane of the Bundela rule and a chief cause of the calamities that befell it. Pahar Singh, second son of Jagat Raj, proclaimed himself Raja to the exclusion of Guman Singh. Guman Singh and Khuman Singh, who were sons of Kirat Singh, Pahar Singh's brother, and doubtless inherited their father's *jagir*, were able with promptitude to strike a blow for their rights. But Pahar Singh eventually defeated their armies at Supa and drove them to the Jumna; and later, when they had obtained the assistance of Najaf Khan, he once more defeated them at Kharela. The struggle, however, seems to have been for the Raj of Jaitpur and the brothers do not seem to have been driven

from their father's *jagir;* and in 1765, shortly before his death, Pahar Singh agreed to admit his nephews to a very substantial share of the dominions of their grandfather. At this division of territory Guman Singh became Raja of Banda, and Khuman Singh Raja of Charkhari: and on Pahar Singh's death, his own son, Gaj Singh, succeeded his father on the *gaddi* of Jaitpur, while another son, by name Man Singh, obtained the *jagir* of Sarila. These states between them comprised the whole of the Hamirpur district, with the exception of pargana Mahoba.

The only event that disturbed the next fifteen years was the invasion of Bundelkhand by Karamat Khan, an agent of Shuja-ud-daula, the Nawab Wazir. The Oudh forces crossed the Jumna in the north of Pailani tahsil in the Banda district and the danger was so imminent that the Bundela chiefs, including Khuman Singh, united to repel it. In a pitched battle at Tindwari, 14 miles north of Banda, Karamat Khan was totally defeated and driven with great loss across the Jumna. The episode is an important one, for in the invading army was Gosain Himmat Bahadur, who fifteen years later was destined to carve for himself a considerable principality out of the country from which he was now driven in ignominious flight. In 1781 Guman Singh, Raja of Banda, died leaving a minor son, Madhukar Singh, and a nephew, Bakht Bali; these in succession were raised to the throne under the guardianship of Noni Arjun Singh, commander-in-chief of Guman Singh's army. This restless and ambitious leader was not long in involving his master's empire in complications. A sudden and cowardly attack was made first on Raja Khuman Singh near Maudaha while that chief was enjoying the pleasures of the chase. This was followed immediately by a pitched battle at the village of Pandori or Parhori, on the Chandrawal river, in which Raja Khuman Singh lost his life. The Charkhari state was annexed to that of Banda and Khuman Singh's son, Bijai Bahadur, fled to the court of Daulat Rao Scindia, while Noni Arjun Singh proceeded to take part in the war of the Panna succession, he theatre of which lay outside this district.

Nawab Ali Bahadur and Raja Himmat Bahadur invade Bundelkhand.

Incessant internecine warfare, besides weakening the Bundela states, now rendered impossible the union which had offered a few years before so stout a resistance to Shuja-ud-daula; and the country, impoverished and exhausted, had become an easy prey to the first bold leader who should invade it. The invaders were not long in appearing in the persons of Himmat Bahadur and Nawab Ali Bahadur. The former of these was the *chela* and representative of Raja Indargir Gosain, a soldier of fortune who at one time conquered a considerable tract of country in the Jhansi district from which, however, he was driven by the Marathas. Himmat Bahadur had, as we have seen, shared in the defeat of Karamat Khan at Tindwari. He subsequently accompanied the Oudh army to Baksar, and during 1778 and 1779 led his Gosains to more successful warfare under the Marathas in the districts of Meerut and the north-west. Nawab Ali Bahadur was the grandson of the Peshwa, Baji Rao, by a Muhammadan woman, called Mustani, whom he had carried away from Jaitpur on the occasion of the investment of that fortress. Nawab Ali Bahadur and his cousin Ghani Bahadur served with the Maratha army to the north of Dehli, the Nawab commanding a division. It was probably in this direction that the Gosain soldier of fortune and the Muhammadan descendant of the Peshwa became acquainted with one another. It is generally believed, and it is also probable, that Himmat Bahadur invaded Bundelkhand independently and had established himself in the country some time before Nawab Ali Bahadur's arrival. Whether he came in pursuance of the designs of Nana Farnavis or invaded Bundelkhand on his own account, afterwards inviting Ali Bahadur to help him in the task, cannot now with certainty be determined; but the advance of the Marathas was probably connected with Bijai Bahadur's appeal for assistance at Gwalior. Meanwhile the Gosain leader had certainly occupied several of the northern parganas along the Jumna before Ali Bahadur joined him. The arrival of the Maratha force brought up the numbers of the allies to 40,000 men, and the first action was fought between Nowgong and Ajaigarh with Noni Arjun Singh who was totally defeated and slain. This battle, which appears to have been fought in 1791 A.D., put an end for ever to the Raj of Banda,

and the struggle with the Bundela chiefs resolved itself into a series of small actions and guerilla warfare. A small force under Himmat Bahadur proceeded to Charkhari, where it was attacked by Bir Singh Deo, Raja of Bijawar and cousin of Khuman Singh, who lost his life in the action; and a Maratha leader, named Suga Ram, defeated some levies under Puranmal, son of Kunwar Soni Sah, Raja of Chhatarpur, near Maudaha. All the Charkhari territory was taken possession of by the Marathas, who assigned Bijai Bahadur lands yielding a revenue of Rs. 4,00,000 on his executing engagements of fidelity and allegiance. With the exception of this and similar grants, the bulk of this district seems to have been equally divided between Himmat Bahadur and the Nawab. But though the conquest of the district was rapid, it was certainly not thorough, and Ajaigarh and Kalinjar were not attacked for some years. A large force sent by the Nawab to Rewah met with a severe reverse, and while the Nawab himself was operating in the east of Bundelkhand the Bundelas broke out everywhere in his rear. Returning in 1799 A.D. he laid siege to and captured Ajaigarh in six weeks, and then retook Jaitpur almost without resistance. These successes emboldened him to attempt to clinch his hold on the country by the capture of the fort of Kalinjar. But the great fortress was destined once more to look down on the death of a besieger, and Ali Bahadur died before it in 1802 A.D. before he had accomplished his object.

Bundela administration.

The Bundela remains in Hamirpur, like those of the Mughals, are very few, and the old forts at Jaitpur, Bijainagar and a few other places are in this district, as in others, the only remaining monuments of their rule. The Bundela revenue system, so far as they had one, seems to have tended towards the creation of small subdivisions, and the old imperial parganas were divided into several small portions each with its fortified headquarters; parganas Panwari, Jaitpur, Jalalpur, Kharka, Muskira, Mataundh and Sumerpur all appear to have been Bundela creations. Villages were assigned to members of the reigning family or to faithful followers in reward for services, or to chiefs on condition of supplying a certain member of fighting men when called on. The assignees however do not appear to have resided in the villages

thus given them, and the numerous forts found dotted over the country when not ascribed to the central government appear to have been built by strong village communities. The wholly assigned villages were held in *jagir*, others were held in *ubari* tenure at a quit-rent, and the remainder were either farmed or the collections were made in them direct through the headman, who received a percentage for his trouble. The revenue was usually paid in three instalments, aggregating one-third each, in *Sawan*, *Aghan* and *Chait*, the first being generally collected in advance; but some sort of rough deduction appears usually to have been made when there was any crop failure, and the most serious obstacles to full rentals and collections were the thoroughly unsettled state of the country and the utter insecurity of life and property, which led to widepread extortion and misery. The northern parganas were probably in a comparative state of quiet, but the country south of a line drawn from Rath to Maudaha had been for two centuries the battle-ground of contending forces and was in all probability much covered with jungle and seriously depopulated.

The Maratha system.

Nor were matters much improved under the short rule of the Marathas. Their most common method of revenue administration was to fix the revenue demand at the commencement of the year by inspection, called *dekhaparki*. Sometimes leases were given to the headmen, who then became responsible, or leases were given by the State through the headman to each cultivator, the rates of rent being calculated either on the crop or according to the soil: in these cases they were called *amani*. These rates were the highest rates that could be paid in a favourable year. In other cases a village was held under direct management *(kachchi tahsil)* when the management and collection of the rents were entrusted to the headmen or to a specially appointed official called *mutasuddi*. The headmen either received some land which they held rent free or received a percentage of the collections; this percentage was called *pachotra* from the fact that it usually amounted to 5 per cent. If the demand was fixed by appraisement, it was the custom to send a revenue official at the end of the year to collect it or to make a valuation after each harvest, leaving the sum fixed to be collected

by the headmen either by fixed rates *(darbarar)* or by distribution over the holdings (*bachh*) after deduction of the headman's dues (*mehnatana).* Whatever the system adopted the general result was the fixation from year to year of a maximum demand; every expedient was adopted to collect as much as possible of this, so that the people were generally impoverished; while in the case of villages that were farmed leases were run up often to a ruinous extent and led to very great extortion.

Bundelkhand ceded to the British.

Before his death Nawab Ali Bahadur had concluded an arrangement with the court of Poona, by virtue of which "the sovereign and paramount right of the Peshwa over all the conquests of Ali Bahadur in Bundelkhand was declared and acknowledged."* When he died at Kalinjar, in 1802, of his two sons one was an infant and the other, Shamsher Bahadur, was absent at Poona. On December 31st, 1802, the celebrated treaty of Bassein was signed, by which the Peshwa agreed to cede territory estimated to yield a revenue of twenty-six lakhs of rupees for the maintenance of a British force. Shamsher Bahadur on hearing of his father's death hastened to Kalinjar to make himself master of his father's possessions, and treacherously seized and confined his relative, Ghani Bahadur, who had acted for him in his absence, in the fort of Ajaigarh, where he was afterwards poisoned. In the following year by an agreement, supplemental to the treaty of Bassein, dated December 16th, 1803, the Peshwa agreed "to cede in perpetuity to the Hon'ble East India Company from the province of Bundelkhand conquered for the Poona state by Ali Bahadur territory yielding an estimated annual revenue of Rs. 36,16,000." It may easily be imagined that the terms of this treaty would seriously affect the position of Shamsher Bahadur and drive him into the confederacy for opposing the British Government, formed by Daulat Rao Sindhia, the Raja of Berar and Jaswant Rao Holkar. In the plan concerted by those chiefs, Shamsher Bahadur was assigned the important part of leading an invading force into the districts of Mirzapur and Benares. Himmat Bahadur, however, was no party to these schemes and indeed had little to gain from the success of the Marathas. He decided

* Aitchison's Treaties, I, p. 187.

to make overtures to the British and carried out his decision through his trusted agents, Colonel Meiselback and Nawab Waji-ud-din Khan, with the greatest secrecy. On September 4th, 1803, he concluded an agreement with the British at Shahpur, 40 miles west of Allahabad. This secured to Maharaja Anupgir Himmat Bahadur a *jagir* equal to his rank and station and a *jaedad* of 20 lakhs of rupees for the support of his troops. Two days later a substantial British force crossed the Jumna at Rajapur and advanced to Karwi, where it was joined by the Raja and his troops. Shamsher Bahadur left Kalinjar and took up his position on the west bank of the Ken opposite Kanwara* but was quickly driven out and completely defeated at Kapsa,† while he was on his way to join Nana Gobind Rao at Kalpi. He reached Kalpi in safety, but eventually gave himself up on January 10th, 1804, on the assurance that an allowance of Rs. 4,00,000 would be assigned in perpetuity for his support. The capture of Kalpi in ths same year effectually confirmed the British occupation of Bundelkhand.

Gradual pacification of the province

In this district Himmat Bahadur received in *jagir* parganas Panwari, Rath, Maudaha and Sumerpur. The rest of the district was put under the management of a commission consisting of Mr. Brooke, judge of appeal at Benares as president, Captain Baillie, the agent to the Governor General, and Colonel Martindell, the officer commanding the troops, as members. The whole country was in an extremely disturbed condition, and when Captain Baillie joined the headquarters of the British force in November 1804 he found it encamped on the banks of the Jumna in one of the parganas which had been ceded to Himmat Bahadur: it was employed in supporting that chief's operations against the inhabitants of the pargana of Hamirpur. The south of the district was overrun by marauding bands, the chief leaders of which were Gopal Singh, Lachhman Singh and Raja Ram. The last named fought a successful action with the British troops at Thanna Paswara. Several brigades were sent into the interior of Bundelkhand and certain portions of Rath, Jalalpur and Kharka were quickly overrun and conquered from Tej Singh Bundela. Subsequently Panwari and the small pargana of Supa were

* Two miles from Banda. | † Nine miles north-west of Banda.

subjected to British authority, while a force under Sheikh Kul Ali Khan took the fort of Jaitpur. In the following year the domain of Kesri Singh, son of Gaj Singh, Raja of Jaitpur, who had managed to regain his authority after Ali Bahadur's death, was restricted to a *baoni*, or fifty-two villages, and the pargana of Mahoba was under the agreement of 1805 restored to the subahdar of Jalaun. Mr. Erskine's account of parganas Panwari, Supa and Mataundh in 1806 shows that the march through of British forces was wholly ineffectual in restoring tranquillity, while the "Garhi-bunds" or banditti who lived in forts on hills were even more obstinate foes to pacification. Lachhman Singh, however, was ultimately provided for by the grant of territory now comprised in the *jagir* of Gaurihar, and Gopal Singh, one of the ablest of the banditti leaders, became shortly afterwards chief of Garrauli. By 1811 the district appears to have been completely tranquil though in its wilder portions the descendants of these petty chiefs and desperadoes have occasionally given trouble since. In 1842, at the time of the first Afghan war and our reverses in that year, Parichhat, Raja of Jaitpur, rose into almost open rebellion. This was easily suppressed, for the Raja was caught in one of his own jungles and removed to Cawnpore, while his territories were handed over to Khet Singh, an aspirant to the principality of Charkhari. In 1812 a cantonment was formed for British troops at Kaitha near Rath: this place remained a military station till 1828, when the troops were withdrawn owing to the complete pacification of this portion of the country.

The Mutiny.

With these exceptions, however, the district may be said to have remained undisturbed from 1812 till 1857. At the outbreak of the Mutiny, the composition of the district was the same as it is now, Jaitpur and Mahoba having been received from Jalaun in 1853. At Hamirpur itself was stationed Mr. T. K. Lloyd, magistrate and collector, and Mr. Donald Grant, joint magistrate; while at Mahoba resided Mr. Carne, who had charge of the Mahoba subdivision. The European and Christian population comprised Mr. W. D. Murray, a landholder, Mr. James Crawford, head clerk, Mr. W. Bunter, who was judicial clerk, his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson with four children

who were relatives of Mr. Bunter. The troops in the civil lines consisted of a detachment of the 56th Native Infantry whose headquarters were at Cawnpore; these numbered some 66 men in all. As daily reports of massacres and bloodshed came pouring in from all sides, Mr. Lloyd sent to the chiefs of Charkhari, Baoni and Beri for assistance; he received 100 men and a gun from each, and strengthened his forces by entertaining new levies and concentrating police, tahsil and other guards at headquarters.

The ou break.

Early in June the landholders of *mauza* Ramari, incited by the hope of plunder, became openly hostile and began to loot their neighbours. On June 12th the headmen of the various auxiliaries, the *subahdar* of the 56th regiment on duty at the treasury, and some of the subordinate Government officials held a meeting at the house occupied by the Charkhari troops. On the next day they broke into open revolt, refused to deliver up the keys of the treasury when ordered to do so and prepared themselves for action. On the following day one Rahim-ud-din, a headman of the Nawab of Baoni, arrived, withdrew the guns which were posted in Mr. Lloyd's compound, saying that it was his master's orders, and turned them on the house, while some mutinous sepoys released the prisoners at the jail. In the early morning Messrs. Raikes and Browne of the 1st Regiment of native infantry, whose detachment had mutinied on the way to Orai, had arrived as fugitives and they with Messrs. Lloyd and Grant who till then had refused to quit their posts and retreat on Banda, as invited by Mr. Mayne, seeing that the crisis had arrived, called for their horses and prepared to fly.

The flight.

Their servants, however, turned traitors and decamped with their animals, spreading the news that the European officers were about to escape. In this extremity the fugitives made for the river bank, where they had a boat ready, and determined to try and reach Allahabad. As soon as the boat swung into midstream, however, it was fired on from the bank by a party of sepoys who had pursued the fugitives; the latter to escape the fusilade, jumped into the water and swam ashore on the opposite side. Here they met with more bad treatment, for the men of the village of Rampur, where they landed, fell on them and

plundered them of all they possessed. The whole party then got separated: the native clerks accompanying them managed to return to Hamirpur by night and conceal themselves till they could escape, while the two officers of the 1st Native Infantry wandered towards Allahabad. Browne reached Fatehpur in time to join Havelock's force, and subsequently died of cholera; but Raikes perished on the way from want and exposure. Messrs. Lloyd and Grant hid themselves in some castor-oil fields till evening and swam down with the current of the river to the junction of the Betwa and the Jumna, three miles below the town of Hamirpur; here they remained five days concealed in swamps during the day and coming ashore during the night. They were supplied with provisions through the agency of Paltu, a syce of Mr. Lloyd's, and a shepherd boy named Mania, and the good offices of a Bengali clerk, called Hari Mohan, and a landholder of Taraus Ramari.

The massacre.

Meanwhile at Hamirpur Messrs. Murray and Crawford at the first outbreak had sought shelter at the house where the Charkhari troops were posted and were killed by them. Mr. and Mrs. Bunter hid themselves in a garden; here they were discovered, but were spared their lives and were permitted to go to the hospital where they found the eldest Miss Anderson with her arm severely cut. They remained in the hospital till the 19th June, while all the bungalows in the station were plundered and burnt, and the *subahdar*, Ali Bakhsh, proclaimed the rule of Dehli and himself as its agent. On the evening of June 18th some Ahirs discovered Mr. Lloyd's place of concealment and reported it to the *subahdar*. A detachment of sepoys accordingly went down, captured Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Grant and escorted them back to the cutcherry compound, where they were shot. The Bunters at the same time were killed, but Miss Anderson escaped a similar fate only because she fainted and appeared to be dead. She was subsequently protected by some well-disposed zamindars and cultivators, and was sent to Cawnpore.

State of the district.

After the murder of the Europeans anarchy was the order of the day. The mob and sepoys plundered the town: old scores were wiped out in blood, and a Christian preacher, named Jeremiah, with his whole family, were slaughtered unresisting.

The Bengali clerks were next attacked and robbed of all they possessed, while even three boats of unarmed sepoys belonging to the 44th and 67th regiments which were passing by on the 18th June had the guns turned on them from the shore and were killed or plundered of all they had. The sepoys and their auxiliaries next fell out about the money in the treasury; this amounted to nearly Rs. 1,50,000, and when the *subahdar* said he meant to take it to Dehli, the Charkhari troops declared that it should not go without their Raja's leave. This objection on their part, however, had been anticipated by the *subahdar*; he had written for help to Cawnpore, and on the 20th the arrival of a body of troopers from the Nana of Bithur silenced all opposition. The town was once more plundered and on the 21st the mutineers departed to Cawnpore. The native deputy collector, Wahid-uz-zaman, now tried to restore some sort of order, but a few days later an order came from the Nana to him ordering him to manage affairs in his name. On July 1st the Peshwa's rule was proclaimed, and on the 4th all landholders were ordered to pay their revenue to the Nana's accredited agent. On the 15th the native clerks, who had for the most part accepted the new order of things, hearing of the British advance on Fatehpur, thought it time to look to their own interests, and on the 21st or 22nd, learning that Cawnpore had been retaken, Wahid-uz-zaman also absconded. In the villages the state of affairs was the same as in the neighbouring district of Banda. Men rose on all sides and plundered all that they could lay their hands on. The brunt of their fury fell on the bankers, money-lenders, farmers and auction-purchasers who had gained possession of half the estates in the district, and these or their agents were driven with every insult and ignominy from their villages. The largest communities profited immensely from the anarchy, while many of the smaller ones were ruined and dispersed. The chief offenders in respect of rebellion and plunder appear to have been the landholders of Ramari, Surauli Buzurg and Surauli Khurd: in the two latter even batteries were thrown up and all passing boats were plundered.

Meanwhile Mr. Carne, the assistant stationed at Mahoba, appears first to have joined the fugitives from Nowgong and

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to have shared their misfortunes, and ultimately to have fled to Charkhari, where he was hospitably received by the Raja. By personal influence he induced that chieftain to undertake the management of parganas Rath, Jaitpur and Panwari. Pargana Hamirpur had been handed over to the charge of the Raja of Baoni; Maudaha was in the hands of the Nawab of Banda; and the Raja of Gursarai, who was trying to make good his own claims to the old `alaun state, took possession of pargana Mahoba. The Marathas seized on pargana Jalalpur, and all parties seem to have united in plundering Sumerpur. The widow of Parichhat, formerly Raja of Jaitpur, who was in receipt of a pension of Rs. 1,200 per mensem from the British Grovernment, set herself up at Jaitpur and appropriated all the money in the tahsil treasury. In this she was joined by a notorious outlaw named Despat and many other unruly landholders of the neighbourhood. The Charkhari troops, however, were sent against her and forced her after eight days' desultory fighting to retire and seek an asylum at Tehri. The Raja of Charkhari had shown serious displeasure with the part his men had taken in the massacre at Hamirpur and ultimately hanged the leader, Sabdal Dauwa; but when the *subahdar*, Ali Bakhsh, proclaimed the King of Dehli's rule he sent him a letter protesting his allegiance and requesting that all the dominions formerly held by his ancestor Chhatarsal might be continued to him by royal *sanad*. For a time he appears to have been siding with the Maratha leaders who were operating on the south side of the Jumna from their headquarters at Jalalpur, ;* but he was ultimately induced though the personal influence of Mr. Carne to declare himself on the side of order and to throw in his lot with the British. It was for this loyalty that towards the end of January 1858 the Nana sent Tantia Topi to attack him. Tantia Topi accordingly, with a force of 900 sepoys, 200 cavalry and four guns, advanced on Charkhari, where he was joined by Despat, Daulat Singh and the rebel Rajas of Banpur and Shahgarh with large numbers of irregular troops; and their united armies invested the Raja in his fortress. Meanwhile General Whitlock's column had reached Damoh on March 5th,

* Kaye and Malleson, vol. IV, pp. 313 and 314.

and Sir Hugh Rose was rapidly approaching Jhansi. Both officers, the former on the 17th and the latter on the 28th March, received orders to march at once to the Raja's assistance. General Whitlock's column, however, was too far away, and though Sir Hugh Rose considered the orders imperative, Sir Robert Hamilton took upon himself the responsibility of authorising him to disobey them and to continue his march on Jhansi. Accordingly after eleven days' siege and fighting Charkhari was captured by Tantia Topi, who gained possession of 24 cannon and three lakhs of treasure belonging to the Raja.

Advance of General Whitlock's column.

General Whitlock in compliance with his orders left Damoh on March 22nd and reached Panna on the 29th: here he remained till the 2nd of April. Leaving Panna on April 3rd by the difficult pass at Marwaghat he was compelled to again halt for repairs at Mandala and remained for three days till he received urgent orders from Sir Hugh Rose to move with all expedition to Jhansi. He advanced to Chhatarpur on the 9th and then directed his steps towards Mahoba: but having received intelligence of the previous fall of Charkhari he turned towards Banda. Meanwhile the Nawab of Banda had pushed forward a force consisting of 850 men of the mutinied 50th Bengal Native Infantry, 200 men of the 23rd Native Infantry and of the 2nd Regiment Irregular Cavalry, Gwalior contingent, with half a battery of guns, as far as Mahoba to oppose the British column. As the latter approached, however, these troops were withdrawn and set in ambush at Kabrai. General Whitlock reached Kabrai on April 17th, totally unaware of the presence of the enemy, who unexpectedly attacked his men in the early morning as they were marching through the village, but were easily beaten off. On the 19th he fought a pitched battle with the main body of the Nawab's troops at Goera Mughli, a few miles from Banda, totally defeated them and occupied that town the next day. The Nawab made good his escape along the old road to Kalpi.

Subsequent history.

With the defeat and flight of the Nawab the great rebellion as far as this district is concerned may be said to have come to an end. Administration was carried on for a short time by Mr. Carne from Banda: on May 10th, Hamirpur was added

to the Jhansi division then newly formed, and after the fall of Kalpi on May 24th, 1858, Mr. G. H. Freeling accompanied by a force reoccupied the civil station. The south of the district, however, was in a much disturbed condition, most of the old *ubaridars* being still in open rebellion, and Jaitpur being only held by means of an armed force. The outlaw Despat, who was practically in possession of Mau Ranipur in the Jhansi district, kept a small garrison at Kashipur on the Dhasan, and roving bands of rebels plundered unchecked the central parganas, finding a secure asylum in the wild country near the junction of the Betwa and Dhasan. In August one Chhatar Singh from Jhansi made a descent on the district, plundered Rath, and killed the local Government officials. After rest and recoupment General Whitlock's force returned from Banda and took up its quarters early in September at Mahoba. Moveable columns were sent out against the rebels in different directions and the fort of Srinagar was destroyed. Finally Captain Thompson's detachment defeated Chhatar Singh's force near Garautha in Jhansi, and drove it back on Rath, where Brigadier Munsey entirely dispersed it, forcing Chhatar Singh to go into concealment. The district then soon settled into its normal state and the work of reorganization was effectually carried out. It was not, however, for very many years that the descendants of petty chiefs and outlaws ceased to give trouble. Bands of robbers infested the wild hilly portions of Mahoba and Kulpahar and one of the most notorious of these outlaws, named Raghunath, was killed in 1869; ten years later a band of desperadoes took refuge in the jungles and were only captured after a months' exertion, while even after 1880 an outlaw guard was maintained in the distant village of Bagaura. But with these exceptions the history of the district since 1858 has been one of orderly administration; the events and changes, such as famines, that have disturbed it have been described in the preceding pages.

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AJNAR, *Pargana* PANWARI-JAITPUR, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR.

A village lying in 25° 11′ N. and 79° 32′ E., on the unmetalled road from Jaitpur to Nowgong, at a distance of 70 miles from Hamirpur and eight miles from Jaitpur. It is surrounded on three sides by hills which hold some game. Within the area of the village-lands there is a patch of forest extending over 1,299 acres, the property of the landholders. Ajnar possesses a first-class police station, a branch post-office and a village school. The population in 1865 was 2,320, which in 1901 had risen to 2,608 persons, of whom 88 were Musalmans. Chamars are the most numerous Hindu caste. The neighbourhood of Ajnar was probably occupied in early times by Gonds, for Hausa Deo, a Gond chief, said to have been slain by the Marathas, is still reverenced at Bacheora, Khoi and other villages in the vicinity. In 1725 A. D. the locality was the theatre of war between Muhammad Khan Bangash and the Bundelas under Raja Chhatarsal. A little to the east of Ajnar in the village of Majhgawan are the remains of an old embankment of the Chandel style, and a project for its reconstruction in order to form a large irrigation reservoir is at present under consideration.

AONTA, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A village in 25° 38′ N. and 79° 39′ E. situated a short distance north of the road from Rath to Muskira, at a distance of six miles from Rath and 43 miles from Hamirpur. It is in a declining state, for in 1872 it had a population of 2,877 inhabitants which in 1901 had fallen to only 1,928. Of these 125 were Musalmans, the majority of the Hindus being Lodhis. Formerly a large market was held every Thursday, at which grain, cloth and *pan* were sold, but the traffic in the last-named article has been practically all transferred to Mahoba. The village contains a small school. The Lodhis of the village say that their forefathers ruled as *chakladars* over a circle of 26 villages by appointment of Shah Alam, and that up to the time

of the Mutiny *nazrana* offerings were occasionally presented to them by the subordinate villages.

ARTARA, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A large village lying in 25° 43′ N. and 80° 11′ E. five miles north-east of the tahsil headquarters. The village is owned by Brahmans who say they wrested it from the Thakurs of Rupawa during the Chandel rule. Its population in 1901 amounted to 2,063 persons, and consisted chiefly of Brahmans, Chamars and Muhammadans. It contains a school.

BASWARI, *Pargana* MUSKIRA, *Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A large village on the road from Maudaha to Muskira, in 25° 40′ N. and 79° 51′ E., 17 miles due west of Maudaha and three miles east of Muskira. It contained in 1901 a population of 2,235 persons, and is an old Lodhi colony. The *zamindars* now consist also of Rajputs, Banias and Brahmans, and Marwaris have also crept in. There is a school in the village, and a small market is held on Tuesdays.

BEWAR, *Pargana* MUSKIRA, *Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A large village, consisting of three inhabited sites, lying in 25° 47′ N. and 79° 56′ E. on the road from Hamirpur to Rath, at the point where it is crossed by the road from Maudaha to Jalalpur, at a distance of 21 miles from Hamirpur. A branch road also leads from this place to Charkhari. The village possesses a third-class police station, pound, post-office and school. There is a large military encamping-ground here, near the village and north of the road from Jalalpur to Maudaha. The *zamindars* are Bais Rajputs. A market is held here on Sundays and a small trade in grain is carried on. The population in 1865 was 3,089 persons, and at the last census in 1901 it numbered 3,015, of whom 166 were Musalmans. Brahmans are the most numerous Hindu caste.

BIDOKHAR, *Pargana* SUMERPUR, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

An ancient village lying in 25° 47′ N. and 80° 7′ E. at a distance of 15 miles from Hamirpur and six miles from the

metalled road to Maudaha and Mahoba. It is mentioned in the *Chandraisa* as having been a *thana* of Prithviraj. The village consists of two portions, Bidokhar Thok Mehdni and Bidokhar Thok Purai. It was formerly the headquarters of an estate of 24 villages held by Bais Rajputs, who came from Daundia Khera in Oudh, under the leadership of two men named Rahil and Das. At the "*baithak*" or resting-place of the former the Bais used to assemble in honour of their departed chief, and this practice gave rise to the fair which was formerly held here during the Dasahra. At this fair some 15,000 people assembled, and the chief articles of trade were cloth, metal vessels, leather goods and glass ornaments. The population of the village at the census of 1901 was 2,178 persons, of whom 85 were Musalmans. The Bais are the prevailing Hindu caste. The village was destroyed in 1795 by Ghani Bahadur of Banda. During the Mutiny the old *zamindars* murdered Girdhari, a Marwari, who was the auction-purchaser of their rights; for this they were severely punished by the magistrate; a decree was also obtained against them by the heirs of the murdered man. The Bais Rajputs were preceded by Bagris, who date their advent from the invasion of Prithviraj.

BIHUNI TOLA, *Pargana* MUSKIRA, *Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A large village, lying in 25° 38′ N. and 79° 45′ E. and consisting of two portions—Bihuni Kalan and Bihuni Khurd—both of which are of approximately equal size. It is situated near the Barma river and on the road from Muskira to Rath, at a distance of 40 miles from Hamirpur. There is a market here, and a number of persons are engaged in the occupation of dyeing country cloth. The village possesses the finest modern temple in the district, erected by a Marwari merchant about 1870. The population of Bihuni Tola at the census of 1901 was 2,462 persons, of whom 75 were Musalmans. Lodhis are the most numerous Hindu caste, and believe themselves to be indigenous. Near the village is a deserted site known as Aonra Khera, another old Lodhi stronghold. The village contains a school, and the Barma river has recently been bridged on the Rath-Muskira road.

BILGAON, *Pargana* JALALPUR, *Tahsil* RATH.

A large village lying in 25° 44′ N. and 79° 49′ E., on the banks of the Barma river, 19 miles north-east of Rath and six miles due north of Muskira, with which it is connected by a village track. The village contains a population of 2,221 persons, chiefly consisting of Lodhis, and a small school.

BILKHI, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHOBA.

A small village lying in 25° 14′ N. and 79° 46′ E., ten miles south-west of Mahoba, on the boundary of Kulpahar tahsil. In 1901 it contained a population of 758 souls. Between the village and its neighbour Sijahri lies some of the best jungle in the district, 634 acres of which were protected in 1880 by the imposition of a provisory *jama* of Rs. 300. The village also contains a small lake, whose waters Mr. Dubus proposed to utilise for irrigation in 1879 by a scheme which connected it with the Pawa tank to the north. The plan, however, was subsequently abandoned. The whole neighbourhood extending over Sawasa and Tola Sium in Kulpahar is covered with forest of the usual Bundelkhand type and contains a little game.

CHANDAUT, *Pargana* JALALPUR, *Tahsil* RATH.

A large village in 26° 54′ N. and 79° 41′ E. on the bank of the Betwa, which is here crossed by a ferry on the road from Rath to Kalpi, at a distance of 22 miles from Rath and 40 miles from Hamirpur. It contains a post-office, pound and village school. There is a large encamping-ground 500 yards west of the village. The *zamindars* are Lodhis, and are in prosperous circumstances. The population has greatly declined of late years: in 1865 it numbered 2,541 persons, but at the last census there were but 1,960 inhabitants, of whom 74 were Musalmans. Formerly the village contained a third-class police station, but this has now been replaced by a police outpost consisting of one head and four constables of the armed police. Chandaut was in the thirteenth century a Parihar stronghold: the Lodhis must have driven the Parihars out. The place like others was sacked by Chhatarsal about 1690 A. D.

GAHRAULI, *Pargana* MUSKIRA, *Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A large village in 25° 37′ N. and 79° 53′, E. at a distance of 35 miles from Hamirpur, six miles from Muskira and four miles east of the road leading from Bewar to Charkhari. Except for the size of its population it is a place of no importance. It possesses a village school and a bazar, in which markets are held on Fridays in each week. There is a large Chandel tank outside the village with the ruins of several large temples on its banks, which show that at one time it must have been a place of some importance. The tank is now nearly silted up. The place has somewhat declined of late years, for in 1865 the population numbered 4,426 persons, while at the last census the total was 4,240 person, of whom 240 were Musalmans : Lodhis are the prevailing Hindu caste. Two small fairs are held in the village, at one of which, known as the *Jinjia*, women purchase earthen vessels pierced with holes, which they carry round to their husbands and others, who are in return obliged to give them presents. A buffalo is said to be sacrificed at this fair, but there is a tradition that in the olden times the villagers used to sacrifice any person whom they found within their boundaries on the fair day who was connected by marriage with any resident of the village.

GAURAHRI, *Pargana* PANWARI-JAITPUR, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR.

A village in 25° 27′ N. and 79° 38′ E., on the borders of the Charkhari state, at a distance of 11 miles south of Rath and 10 miles north of Kulpahar. It is generally remarkable for its quarry of soap-stone, from which pipe bowls and other small articles are made. These are principally exported to Mirzapur by travelling merchants, and a considerable trade in cotton is carried on with the same place. The village contains a school, and a very fine temple of comparatively modern date, built by the Lodhi *zamindars*. The population in 1865 was 2,339 persons and at the last census had fallen to 1,951, of whom 102 were Musalmans. Lodhis are the prevailing Hindu caste.

GOHAND, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A large village lying in 25° 42′ N. and 79° 34′ E., on the road from Rath to Mohana and Orai, eight miles north of

Rath. The village, like most in the neighbourhood, is an old Lodhi community, and in 1901 contained 2,885 inhabitants. It was once a market town of some importance, but now has only a small trade in hides: market day is Saturday. The village contains a school.

GOINDI, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHOBA.

Goindi or, as it is variously spelt, Gondi or Gonri, lies in 25° 36′ N. and 79° 59′ E., in the extreme north of the pargana, at a distance of 28 miles from Hamirpur, and four miles west of the metalled road to Mahoba. It has declined considerably of late years, but it has still a large population, and was for a short time administered under Act. XX of 1856. In 1865 there were 4,336 inhabitants, but in 1901 this had fallen to 3,950. A large proportion of these are Bais Rajputs, the owners of the village, and claim descent from one Lakhan Rao, who is said to have married a daughter of Parmal, the Chandel Raja, and to have received as dowry a gift of two villages—Sohas and Kailas—in the latter of which he built a fort. His son Madho Rai succeeded him, but his villages were destroyed and himself slain by Prithviraj during his advance on Mahoba, and none remained of Madho's family but his wife, who was with child away at her mother's house. She returned to her husband's place and was given hospitality by one Bhopat Ahir, who had built his hut on the present site of Goindi. Madho Rao's son was born among the herdsman's cattle, and was hence called *Gayanr Baba;* he founded Goindi and named it after himself. On him the Gaharwar Raja bestowed 24 villages, which were divided among his descendants. The village contains a school, and market is held on Mondays. On the 15th *Aghan* a small *siddh* fair is held here: and brass handles for sticks or *lathis* and betelnut-cutters are manufactured to a small extent.

HAMIRPUR, *Pargana and Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

The headquarters of the district is a town of no considerable size; it is situated on a tongue of land between the Betwa and the Jumna rivers, at a short distance west of their confluence,

in latitude 25° 58′ N. and longitude 80° 9.′ E. The place is chiefly remarkable for its inaccessibility from the rest of the district, especially during the rains. The town consists of an aggregation of villages, known as Hamirpur Khas, Sophiganj, Manjhupur, Rameri and Bhilawan, and lies on the route from Cawnpore to Nowgong, at a distance of 82 miles from the latter and 39 miles from Cawnpore. Both rivers are crossed by a bridge-of-boats during the dry season and by a ferry in the rains. A second-class road runs westwards to Kalpi in Jalaun, and from this place a branch takes off at Jhalokhar leading to Jalalpur; the distance to Kalpi is 28 miles. Other roads run south-west to Bewar, Muskira and Rath and also to Banda, distant 37 miles. The civil station is small and deficient in both houses and roads. It lies to the east of the town, where there is also a large military encamping-ground and a traveller's bungalow. The only public buildings are the courts, police lines and hospital, the district jail, sadr dispensary, the district school and the circuit house, where criminal sessions are held by the judge of Banda. There are two *sarais* and two bazars; the chief of the latter is known as Sophiganj, built by Mr. Ainslie in 1830 and named after his daughter. This same officer built a large mansion here which was sold to the Raos of Karwi but on their rebellion confiscated. The place has grown in importance to some small extent since it became the headquarters of the district, but there are no manufactures and the little trade that exists is almost entirely in grain.

The town is said to have been founded by Hamira Deva in the eleventh century. He was a Karchuli Rajput, who was driven out of Alwar by the Musalmans and took refuge here with one Badna, an Ahir, whose name still survives in the neighbouring village of Badanpur, where there are the remains of an ancient *khera*. Hamira drove out Badna and built the fort, which is now in ruins. He gave his daughter in marriage to Damu Rao, a Rajput of Koil; the latter's son Ram Singh was adopted by Hamira and married to a daughter of a Rajput of Amlor, in pargana Pailani of the Banda district, with whom he received as dowry the eastern portion of pargana Maudaha,

36,350 acres, or 43 per cent., are normally cultivated, the rest being culturable waste or fallow. Cultivation differs in no way from that prevalent in similar tracts in Bundelkhand. The area sown with *rabi* crops is usually somewhat more extensive than that sown with *kharif*; but the double-cropped area is small and does not ordinarily exceed 650 acres. Of the *kharif* crops *juar* occupies the largest acreage: it is generally mixed with *arhar* and is followed by cotton also usually in combination with some other crop. The main *rabi* staple is gram, but usually in half the area under this crop there is a mixture of either wheat or barley, the proportion of wheat to gram increasing as the soil improves in quality and when the seasons are favourable. The only important change that has taken place during the currency of settlement is the disappearance of the valuable *al* crop, which occupied 2,820 acres in 1878. Normally some 900 acres have been annually irrigated since the Betwa canal was constructed, one branch of this watering a portion of the pargana.

The pargana is extremely deficient in the more skilful agricultural castes: 25 per cent. of the tenants are Rajputs, 14 per cent. are Brahmans, 11 per cent. Kewats, 10 per cent. Chamars, 7 per cent. Ahirs and 5 per cent. Kumhars. At the recent settlement in 1906 nearly 60 per cent. of the cultivated area was held by tenants-at-will, a little over 11 per cent. by occupancy tenants and 22·8 per cent. was tilled by proprietors themselves, the remainder being rent-free. There are 53 villages divided into 216 *mahals*, alluvial and non-alluvial. Of the latter 79 are owned by *zamindars*, 25 are held in perfect and 29 in imperfect *pattidari* tenure, while no less than 83 are *bhaiyachara*. The chief proprietary castes are Rajputs, Brahmans, Musalmans and Banias, the two former possessing 71 per cent. of the total area between them: smaller properties little exceeding 2 per cent. each are held by Kayasths and Kurmis. There are no large proprietors in the pargana, but some medium-sized estates are held by Marwaris and Musalmans. The fiscal history of the pargana has already been related in chapter IV, and the revenue demand at successive settlements, as well as that recently fixed, will be found in the appendix.*

* Appendix, tables IX and X.

The population of the pargana has fluctuated within, on the whole, narrow limits during the last thirty years. In 1872 it numbered 33,401 persons, and this fell to 26,541 at the following census. In 1891 there was an increase to 28,832. At the last enumeration in 1901 pargana Hamirpur contained 27,831 inhabitants, giving a density of 212 persons per square mile. The *parua* tract, however, had a density of 528 persons to the square mile, and if this be omitted, the exceedingly low figure of 149 persons per square mile is obtained for the rest of the tract. There are two towns, namely, those of Kurara and Hamirpur, and besides these Kusmarha, Mirgaon, Misripur and Jhalokhar are important villages. There are good markets at Hamirpur and Kurara, and the pargana is also served by Kudaura the capital of the Baoni state, Kalpi and Musanagar in Cawnpore; but the only line of communication is the unmetalled road to Kalpi, distant 30 miles from Hamirpur and 16 miles from the boundary of the pargana. This is bridged throughout but passes over black soil in the west; the only village track of importance is that from Bachraoli to Kusmarha. Hamirpur itself is connected with Cawnpore on the north and the rest of the district on the south by a metalled provincial road, but in each case a river has to be crossed at the start. These rivers are provided with bridges-of-boats except during the rainy season, when a ferry is provided, but in every respect the journey is tedious. The nearest railway station is Cawnpore on the north, 39 miles away, or Kabrai on the south which is 41 miles distant. There are two other ferries in the pargana—at Bhauli and Sikrorhi.

In the days of Akbar Hamirpur formed a *mahal* in the *sarkar* of Kalpi, and has not been substantially altered since. It received 16 villages from Kalpi at one time and gave three back in 1880. It formed a portion of the territory given in *jagir* to Himmat Bahadur in 1803, and was resumed at his death in the following year: since them it has remained under British control.

HAMIRPUR *Tahsil.*

The Hamirpur *tahsil* covers the northern portion of the district comprised in the parganas of Hamirpur and Sumerpur and lies between 25° 42′ and 26° 7′ N. and 79° 51′ and 80° 21′

E. It has a total area of 376 square miles. The physical features and composition of the tract have been sufficiently set forth in the pargana articles.

At the last census, in 1901, the population was returned at 71,625 persons, of whom 34,902 were females. Classified according to religion there were 67,421 Hindus, 4,182 Musalmans, 15 Christians, 3 Sikhs, 2 Jains and 2 Aryas. Among the Hindus Chamars are the most numerous caste, amounting to 10,464 persons, and after them come Rajputs 8,501, Brahmans 5,660, Ahirs 5,364, Kewats 5,276, Kumhars 3,891, and Koris 3,468. Other castes with over 2,000 members apiece are Kachhis and Banias, while Gadariyas closely approach that number. The Rajputs belong to several different clans, the only ones well represented being Bais, Gautams and Gaurs. Among Musalmans Sheikhs predominate, followed by Pathans. The *tahsil is* almost wholly agricultural in character, and there are no manufactures. A list of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

The tahsil now forms a revenue and criminal subdivision in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. For purposes of police administration there are stations at Hamirpur, Kurara, Sumerpur and Lalpur.

INGOTHA, *Pargana* SUMERPUR, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

A village in 25° 45′ N. and 79° 40′ E., on the metalled road from Hamirpur to Mahoba, at a distance of sixteen miles from Hamirpur. In 1901 it contained a population of 2,549 persons, of whom 118 were Musalmans. The village belongs to Parihar Rajputs and Brahmans, who have constant disputes with each other. There is a small school here, and close to the village are to be seen the ruins of a small fort.

ITAILIA, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A large village lying in 25° 45′ N. and 79° 34′ E., 11 miles north of Rath and 3½ miles off the unmetalled road from that town to Chandaut. The village contains a small school and had in 1901 a population of 2,119 persons, chiefly consisting of Lodhis. The *zamindars* are Brahmans and Marwaris.

JAITPUR, *Pargana* PANWARI-JAITPUR, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR.

This town, which gives its name to a pargana in conjunction with Panwari, lies in 25° 15′ N. and 79° 35′ E. at the junction of the roads leading from Rath and Kulpahar to Nowgong, seven miles distant from Kulpahar and 65 miles from Hamirpur. There is a railway station called Bela Tal, about two miles north of the town on the line from Jhansi to Mahoba and Manikpur.

The town consists of a collection of detached villages and extends for a length of two miles, but is very narrow in width. There are nine *muhallas* or quarters, known as the *Bazar* and the *Ghosi, Jogi, Nayakan, Awasthi, Mau, Kadliya, Kakari* and *Kanaujia Puras.* The place contains a pound, post-office, inspection bungalow and village school. There is no regular encamping-ground, but a good site is available half a mile to the west of the town.

Within a short distance of the town to the east is the large tank, known as the Bela Tal, which is said to have been built by Balavarma, a Chandel ruler of Mahoba. It has a circumference of nearly nine miles and is of considerable depth. Two canals are taken out of it, having a total length of nearly five miles. On the western edge of the tank runs a chain of several low hills, along the crest of the northernmost of which is built a strong loop-holed wall, which at the northern end runs down a spur jutting out into the lake at right angles to the main wall. This spur extends eastwards some 500 feet and then turns south for 800 feet, thus including on three sides a small sheet of water. Along this last-mentioned ridge the fort walls run down to the lake, terminating in a ruined tower of massive construction that rises sheer out of the lake. There are other strong towers at the corners of the wall. The southern end of the loop-holed wall is formed by a *ghat* on the water's edge. This end was at a later date strengthened by an outwork which runs up the next hill to the south and then turns westward to the lake again, terminating, like the northern end, in a massive tower. The space enclosed by the fort is considerable, and could contain the whole population. Within are a palace and other buildings, which must have been very

extensive. The former is connected with the tank by several subterranean passages. The foundation of the town and the fort is ascribed to Jagatraj, son of Chhatarsal, the Bundela chief. The palace and the smaller fort to the south are locally said to have been built by Kesri Singh. The town was visited by the traveller Tieffenthaler in the middle of the eighteenth century.

The early history of Jaitpur is given in the historical account of the district. In 1725 when Muhammad Khan, the Bangash Nawab of Farrukhabad, was sent from Allahabad to reduce Chhatarsal, the latter invoked the aid of Baji Rao the Peshwa. Ultimately their united forces shut up the Nawab in Jaitpur and after a siege lasting three months and ten days compelled him to sue for terms; this resulted in the evacuation of the country by the Muhammadans. Chhatarsal died in 1731, and the state of Jaitpur, comprising Hamirpur, Banda, Charkhari, Sarila and Ajaigarh, was assigned to his second son Jagatraj.

The reign of Jagatraj lasted 27 years. During the father's lifetime his eldest son, Kirat Singh, was granted Sihonda in the Banda district as *jagir*, and predeceased his father. The *gaddi* of Jaitpur should by rights have descended to Khuman Singh, the eldest son of Kirat Singh; but Pahar Singh, the second son of Jagatraj, being on the spot, lost no time in securing his own accession. Giving out that Jagatraj, though on the point of death, was not yet dead, and conveying the corpse to Jaitpur, he seized the treasure, amounting it is said to 96 *lakhs* of rupees. With the money he conciliated the chiefs, and then, boldly announcing the death of Jagatraj, proclaimed himself Raja. His mother and six or seven Ranis of Jagatraj became *sati*, while his nephews Guman Singh and Khuman Singh prepared to strike a blow for their rights. An engagement took place between the rival claimants at Supa in which the brothers sustained a complete defeat, and shortly after, when they had obtained the assistance of Najaf Khan, Pahar Singh once more routed them near Maudaha. He does not seem, however, to have driven them from their father's *jagir*, and shortly before his death he summoned them, and, while retaining Jaitpur and its dependencies

with a revenue of 13 lakhs for his own family, divided the rest of his estate between his nephews. In this way Guman Singh became Raja of Banda and Khuman Singh chief of Charkhari, while Gaj Singh succeeded his father on the *gaddi* of Jaitpur and the second son, Man Singh, obtained the *jagir* of Sarila. Jaitpur was conquered in 1795 by Ali Bahadur, but during the troubles that ensued in his absence in Rewah, fell again into the hands of the Bundelas. In 1805 Raja Kesri Singh, son of Gaj Singh, opposed the British, and his possessions were circumscribed to a *baoni* or 52 villages; but in 1809 these were increased by the addition of villages from Panwari and in 1812 Kesri Singh received a *sanad* which conferred on him a tract of country containing in all 150 villages. He was succeeded by his minor son Parichhat, who seems to have had bad advisers from his youth upwards. On the occasion of the British reverses in Kabul in 1842 he thought the time had come to revolt from British rule; but his rebellion was quelled in a few days, and the Raja, being captured in one of the jungles of his own territory, was conveyed to Cawnpore, where he lived on a pension till his death. At the time of Parichhat's deposition there was a claimant to the Charkhari *gaddi*, called Diwan Khet Singh; his claim was disposed of by the gift of the confiscated Jaitpur state. He spent his whole time in sloth and sensuality, became heavily indebted and ultimately mortgaged his territories to the British for three *lakhs*; he received a pension and made over the administratien of the pargana to the British. He died without legitimate issue in 1849, and his territory was declared to have lapsed. Khet Singh's Rani adopted one Arjun Singh, a reputed son of Khet Singh, and subsequently laid claim to Jaitpur on the ground that the mortgage effected by her husband was a civil matter, and that, the sum having been paid off with interest, she was entitled to possession. The claim, however, was disposed of adversely to her, and since 1849 Jaitpur has always formed a portion of the British possessions.

The only noticeable building, besides the fort, is a temple known as the Dhaunsa, which is situated near the railway station about two miles from the town: it is superintended by a *mahant*. Market is held in the town on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and a small fair known as the *Sri Kishn Lila* is held here on the

day of the full moon in *Kartik*. The town has a considerable trade in agricultural produce and *singhara*, the latter being grown extensively in the Bela Tal.

Jaitpur has been administered since 1871 under Act XX of 1856 In 1865 it had a population of 5,905 persons which fell to 5,159 in 1872 and rose again to 5,440 in 1881. Since that year the population has fallen considerably, the inhabitants in 1891 numbering 4,989, and in 1901 4,817 persons, out of whom 2,406 were women. Hindus amounted to 4,376 as against 441 Musalmans. The income of the town is derived from the usual house-tax, and both it and the expenditure average yearly some Rs. 850. Out of this a force of 7 police of all grades and four sweepers are maintained. The Hindu inhabitants consist largely of Kachhis, Kahars and Dhimars. Some three miles west of Jaitpur lies Murhari. It was said to have been founded in 1080 A. D. by Raja Udai Karan Parihar, who built a fort on the Gobardhan hill the remains of which still exist. He is said to have belonged to the same tribe as Mahil, the infamous minister of Parmal. The fort was captured in 1728 by Nawab Muhammad Khan Bangash: its ruins still exist.

JALALPUR, *Pargana* JALALPUR, *Tahsil* RATH.

This place, which gives its name to a pargana, lies in 25° 53′ N. and 79° 47′ E. and is an old and decayed town on the right bank of the Betwa river, at a distance of 30 miles from Hamirpur, with which it is connected by an unmetalled road *viâ* Kurara. Other roads lead to Rath, Muskira, Maudaha and Kalpi. There is a large encamping-ground a mile from the river on the route from Banda to Kalpi. Jalalpur was formerly the centre of a considerable carrying trade, produce being conveyed on pack bullocks; but it has now been ruined by the railway. Up to 1854 it was seat of a munsifi, and it remained the headquarters of a tahsil till 1882, when they were removed to Muskira. The place is now greatly in decay and has a very desolate appearance, owing to the number of large houses lying empty or in ruins. In 1865 the population was 3,433 persons; it fell to 3,040 in 1872 and to 2,200 in 1881. At the census of 1901 there were but 1,455 inhabitants, of whom 314 were Musalmans. A few respectable Pande families still reside here, but they are no longer wealthy.

Act XX of 1846 was formerly in force here, but its operations have been withdrawn for some years.

The town is said to derive its name either from Jalal Khan, governor of Kalpi and son of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, or from Jalal Shah, a *faqir*, whose tomb is still to be seen. The old name was Khandaut, by which a large *khera* or mound, a short distance west of the town, is still known. Khandaut was one of the *thanas* of Prithviraj of Dehli, established at the time of his invasion of Mahoba. In the days of Akbar it still gave its name to a *pargana*. The town of Jalalpur contains seven *muhallas*, the names of which explain their origin: they are the Taraus, or low quarter, the Uparaus, or high quarter, and the quarters of the Shukuls, Misrs, Dubes, Jogis and Tiwaris. There are a third-class police station here, a post-office, a pound and a village school. The village has no cultivated area, and the inhabitants cultivate in the surrounding estates.

JALALPUR *Pargana, Tahsil* RATH.

The pargana of Jalalpur lies between 25° 33′ and 25° 56′ N. and 79° 35′ and 79° 55′ E. It forms the western, smaller and more worthless part of the old tahsil of the same name. The Barma river forms the eastern boundary, and, with the exception of six villages which lie beyond the river, it is separated from Jalaun by the stream of the Betwa. These two rivers form two sides of a triangle, the base of which on the south and west would be the north-eastern boundary of pargana Rath, if it were not that a large area is cut out of the triangle by the Sarila state, which is wedged in between the two parganas. The result of this is that no village in the whole tract is more than six miles from the nearest point on the Betwa or the Barma, and that the country consists, with little exception, entirely of ravines. A good *mar* plain is, however, found round Dhagwan in the south-west and again in the west-centre, running through Mamna to Katahri and Bilgaon. North and south of this belt the character of the soil is determined by a number of watercourses. The country near the Betwa is mainly broken land ending in a series of bluffs. Only in a few places, and those near the mouths of trisbutaries, is there any shelving alluvial soil. The principal of these streams

is the Parwaha, which enters the pargana at Atrauli in the south-west and passes into the Betwa at Rirwa. The most important affluent of the Barma is the Bamraha, which, rising as far west as Mamna, converts the land for some distance on either side of its banks into a ravine jungle. The desolate estate of Deokhari, near which the Bamraha debouches into the larger stream, is said to have been used by the old Sarila Rajas who owned it merely as a hunting ground. Another channel, the Bhaira, which runs out at Bilgaon, is a trifle less destructive but is similar in its action to the Bamraha.

The total area of the pargana is 120,378 acres, or 188 square miles; out of this 34,615 acres, or 28·7 per cent., are barren and waste. The average cultivated area approximates to 48,500 acres, or 40 per cent. of the total, of which some 30 per cent. is culturable waste or fallow. *Rakar* and *bhat* together occupy as much as 38 per cent. of the total cultivated area, and *parua* comes next, with 36 per cent., *mar* and *kabar* account for 11 and 12 per cent. respectively, and the remaining three per cent. is taken up by alluvial and garden soils. The pargana shows even greater fluctuations of cultivated area than are usual in Bundelkhand, but on an average 34,000 acres are sown with autumn and 16,000 with spring crops, the *dofasli* area being some 1,500 acres. The chief crops grown are *juar* and cotton, alone or in combination, *bajra* and *til* in the *kharif*, and gram or wheat and gram intermixed in the *rabi*. Irrigation, except for a very trifling sugarcane area on the Rath side, is confined to *kachhiana*, and is solely dependent on wells; but when the Dhasan canal is completed two branches will run into the pargana, and the area watered will increase largely: at present it averages less than 100 acres. The total population of the pargana by the census of 1901 was 27,972 persons; it has slowly but steadily decreased since 1881. This gives a density of only 148 persons per square mile—the smallest in the district. Few large villages are found, the only two containing over 2,000 inhabitants being Bilgaon and Puraini. The chief cultivating caste is that of Lodhis, who hold 37 per cent. of the rented land, besides what they cultivate as proprietors. Next come Brahmans with 17 per cent., Rajputs and Ahirs 6 per cent. and Kewats 5 per cent., while no other caste

holds more than 3 per cent. Tenants-at-will hold over 61 per cent. of the cultivated area, occupancy-tenants only 13 per cent. and proprietors under 24 per cent., the remainder being rent-free. The pargana contains 64 villages divided into 131 *mahals*. Of the latter 23 are held by single proprietors, 33 are held in joint *zamindari*, 35 in perfect and 26 in imperfect *pattidari*, and 14 are *bhaiyachara*. During the currency of settlement, the cultivating communities have generally held their own, and the *zamindari* tenure, with few exceptions, is confined to small and uninhabited villages. The two largest proprietors are Mulchand and Mali Pershad, each of whom pays Rs. 3,700 in revenue, and Musammat Sughra Bibi, a Bengali Musalman. Ahirs are an important caste, and under their appellation of *Dauwa* appear to enjoy a considerable amount of respect. Their prevalence is to some extent an indication of the pastoral character of the tract, the ravine jungles forming excellent grazing grounds for horned cattle and browsers, which exist in large numbers. There are no large towns or markets in the pargana: produce finds its way either along the road to Kalpi, which is sixteen miles distant from Chandaut or Jalalpur, or along that to Rath, which is distant 22 miles from Chandaut; the latter, however, is not much used. The only other road which touches the pargana is that from Hamirpur to Rath in the south.

In the days of Akbar the pargana was included in the *mahal* of Khandaut in the *sarkar* of Kalpi. Under the British it was first enriched by the addition of some villages from Rath and subsequently by that of the bulk of the small pargana of Kharela. Some years after the settlement of 1842 twenty-two villages of the combined tract of Jalalpur Kharela were transferred to Mahoba. In 1867 the headquarters of the tahsil of Jalalpur were transferred to Muskira, where they remained till 1894, when the Muskira tahsil was abolished and the portion lying west of the Barma river was constituted the pargana of Jalalpur and attached to Rath.

JARAKHAR, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A large village in 25° 39′ N. and 79° 28′ E. seven miles north-west of Rath. It contains a population of 2,248 persons,

both *zamindars* and cultivators being for the most part Lodhis. It also possesses a small school and has a weekly market on Mondays.

JARIYA, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A small village lying in 26° 45′ N. and 79° 37′ E. on the road from Rath to Chandaut, distant twelve miles north of Rath. It has a population of 1,037 persons, mainly consisting of Brahmans, and contains a third-class police station, post-office, pound and school.

JHALOKHAR, *Pargana and Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

A village lying in 25° 57′ N. and 80° 2′. E. on the road from Hamirpur to Kalpi, at a distance of eight miles west from Hamirpur and three miles from Kurara. It is in a very declining state, the population having sunk from 2,317 in 1872 to 1,160 in 1901. It is only noticeable as being a road junction and as possessing an ancient temple, dedicated to *Deoji Bhanya Rani*, the earth in the precincts of which is considered a specific against rheumatism. Numbers of people come here for worship on every Sunday of the year, especially during the hot weather. The Hamirpur branch of the Betwa canal passes near the village, which also contains a school.

KABRAI, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHOBA.

A large village in 25° 23′ N. and 80° 4′ E. near the road from Mahoba to Banda, and close to the point of its junction with the metalled road from Hamirpur; it lies at a distance of 43 miles from the latter place. East of the Banda road runs the Jhansi-Manikpur Railway, with a station called Kabrai connected by a feeder road with the main road. Kabrai is formed of four villages—Bhagwa, Gauhari, Mochipura and Kabrai Khas. In Bhagwa there is a military encamping-ground, a mile south of Kabrai. The total population of the four villages in 1901 was 3,226 persons, of whom 1,737 live in Kabrai Khas. The place has, in common with most villages of the district, declined considerably of late years, for in 1865 the population of the whole was 4,032 and that of Kabrai alone 2,559 persons. Kabrai contains a

second-class police station, pound, post-office, road bungalow, *sarai* and village school. Markets are held weekly on Tuesdays, but there is no trade or manufacture of any importance. There are four *muhallas* in Kabrai, each named after the Bais founders of the village, who are said to have come from Daundia Khera in Oudh, and to have seized by stratagem the lands which belonged to the original Ahir occupants. The Bais founded eight villages in the neighbourhood, of which their descendants still remain in possession. Besides the Bais, Kachhis are the most numerous inhabitants, and after them come Musalmans who number 137 souls.

During the rule of the Pandits of Jalaun *amils* were stationed here, one of whom, named Bhaskar Rao, built a three-storeyed mansion which is still in existence. There are, however, some far older and more interesting relics of the past here. The chief of these is the Brahm Tal, an extensive tank now greatly silted up, but which once must have been a fine lake. It is said to have been made by the Chandel Raja, Balavarma. The embankment is in the form of a segment, and is faced with immense stones forming a flight of steps reaching down to the water's edge: on it are the ruins of a Chandel temple which has been completely demolished. A grove of *dhak* trees covers the embankment, and is said to date from the construction of the lake. In the centre of the lake there was formerly a small building or *baithak*, which has also been wholly demolished, so that only the basement is visible when the water is low. On this *baithak* is said to be an inscribed slab, but it has not been deciphered. There are also several *sati* monuments, but they are apparently not of old date.

Near the *Chakariya Dai* temple is an ancient stone carving representing a woman with a child in her arms. Tradition says that she was an Ahirin who was turned into stone on swearing falsely that she had not committed some theft. It is said that fifty years ago some Chandels disguised as Kanjars found a buried treasure and went away, leaving a thank-offering on the *chabutra* of the temple. There is another temple close by, situated on the top of a rock, and approached by a tunnelled passage cut through the rock itself. Near it numbers of Chandel

stones are to be seen; some of them have been built into *chabutras.* Near the lake is the Dudhu rock, said to be the residence of the ghost of a Teli concerning whom a story is told that closely resembles that of Jacob wrestling with the angel. A little further on is the Bhawani-ka-Pahar, on which there are some small temples of Bhawani, none of which are very old or in any way remarkable.

KAITHA, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A small village lying in 25° 30′ N. and 79° 33′ E., near the Barma river (which is here joined by the Kolari stream) on the road from Rath to Jaitpur, at a distance of eight miles from Rath and 56 miles from Hamirpur. The village is now of no importance, and is only noticeable as having been a cantonment for British troops from 1812 to 1828. The old cantonment cemetery is still in existence, and the remains of a few buildings are to be seen. The population, which in 1865 numbered 1,872 had fallen in 1901 to 1,121 persons; most of these are Lodhis, and trace their descent to the village of Jaisari near Orai in the Jalaun District.

KARI PAHARI, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHOBA.

A small village lying in 25° 22′ N. and 79° 57′ E. near the metalled road from Mahoba to Hamirpur, distant 6 miles north-east of Mahoba It gives its name to a station on the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway, and is connected with the metalled road by a short feeder road; the station is distant about three miles from the village, and has no means of crossing trains or telegraph office. The village contains a population of 589 persons, who are for the most part Lodhis.

KASHIPUR, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A considerable village lying on the banks of the Dhasan river in 25° 22′ N. and 79° 20′ E. It is 18 miles distant from Rath on the unmetalled road from that place to Mau-Ranipur in the Jhansi district, and four miles from Lahchura-ghat where the Dhasan is crossed by a ferry. The village contains a third-class

police station, pound, school and post-office. The population in 1901 numbered 735 persons, chiefly consisting of Chamars.

During the disturbances connected with the Mutiny it became the head-quarters of the notorious outlaw Despat.

KHARELA, *Pargana* MUSKIRA, *Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A large village lying in 25° 33′ N. and 79° 50′ E. near the road from Bewar to Charkhari at a distance of nine miles from Muskira and 40 miles from Hamirpur. The village is the largest in the district, and has a total area of 18,260 acres which is divided into ten *mahals*. There are six *muhallas* in the place, the names of which are derived from those of their founders. Kharela possesses a pound, police outpost, post-office and village school. Markets are held in the bazars on Tuesdays and Saturdays, but there is no trade or manufacture of any importance. The place is in a very declining state, the population having sunk from 7,879 persons in 1865 to a total of 4,837 persons in 1901. The *zamindars* are a very numerous body of Bais Rajputs, who say that their ancestor, Udut Bais, received a *jagir* of 52 villages from Parmal, the Chandel Raja of Mahoba. In Bundela times the *baoni* was broken up. Owing to the large increase in their number they are very poor and part of the village is under attachment for arrears of the revenue. Outside the village at the Mahamun tank a small fair, known as the *Khajalia* fair, is held on the last day of *Sawan*. Some days before the fair takes place women sow wheat and barley in earthen vessels; these they take with them to the tank and, after bathing, break the vessels, distributing the plants to their relations and others, who in return have to make them presents. Above the village is a hill on which figures of ancient gods are still sometimes found: it is surmounted by a small temple which commands an extensive view. The place till 1905 contained a police station: it has seven separate sites but none are important except Kharela. Act XX of 1856 was in force for some years, but was withdrawn before 1891.

KUCHHECHHA, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A small agricultural village lying in 25° 33′ N. and 79° 25′ E. on the unmetalled road from Rath to Garautha, and close to

the Dhasan river. In 1901 it had a total population of 626 persons, the chief Hindu caste being Dhobis. The place is noted, like some others in the neighbourhood, for the manufacture and and dyeing of *kharua* cloth, and there is still some traffic in the article carried on.

KULPAHAR, *Pargana* PANWARI-JAITPUR, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR.

The headquarters of the tahsil lie in 25° 19′ N. and 79° 39′ E. on the unmetalled road from Mahoba to Panwari, at a distance of sixty miles from Hamirpur. Through the town another road leads from Charkhari to Jaitpur. There is no regular encamping-ground here, but a small site is available on the edge of a tank two hundred yards south of the town. The tahsil was removed here from Panwari in 1857. During the confusion of the Mutiny the native officials fled to Charkhari, where they remained for a few months. In the following year the tahsil was established in the fort at Sungra, whence it was again removed to Kulpahar in 1872. There are a first-class police station and a pound, also a post-office, middle vernacular school and *sarai*. The building originally used as a tahsil is now a road inspection bungalow, and the tahsil is located, as well as the police station, in a house rented from the Charkhari darbar. Two miles south of the town runs the Manikpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula railway, the station being connected with the town by a metalled road. There are one or two large tanks constructed by the Bundela Rajas. The chief of these lies to the south of the town and is known as the *Gahra Tal*, the banks of which are ornamented with numerous temples and houses. On the southern side of the tank stands an isolated structure on a small mound, the tomb of some Musalman; it must once have been very beautiful and still is picturesque, though in ruins. Markets are held in Kulpahar twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. There are no manufactures of any importance, though the making and dyeing of country cloth afford some employment, and the *sarautas* or betel-cutters and knives of the place enjoy local celebrity. There is a considerable trade in grain and cotton. About ten years ago some enterprising Parsis started a cotton press and a ginning mill, which employs

from forty to fifty hands permanently during the working season, extra hands being taken on when necessary; and a hay baling press also exists near the railway. A small fair is held here on the twelfth day of the light half of *Bhadon* which is known as the *Jalbihar* fair, and is of a purely religious character.

The name Kulpahar is said to be derived from those of the united villages of Kulhua and Paharia, on which the town now stands. There are nine *muhallas* in the town, known as the *Katra* or market, *Toriyapura*, the *Dubian*, *Ghosian*, *Maulan*, *Satiyan* and *Tilwa Puras*, and *Hatwara* and *Kalbaria*. The population, which in 1865 numbered 6,386 persons, has declined considerably of late years, for in 1901 there were but 5,128 inhabitants, of whom 2,547 were males and 2,581 females. Classified by religions there were 4,242 Hindus, many of whom are Brahmans, 775 Musalmans and eleven Parsis.

The town has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since 1872. The police force consists of nine men of all grades, while for the purposes of conservancy there is a staff of six sweepers. The average income and expenditure amount to Rs. 1,000.

The town was founded by Jagatraj, the son of Chhatarsal, but previously it belonged to Banaphar Rajputs who still hold some *zamindari* in the neighbourhood. They relate that the first occupants were Kachhis, who when engaged in a quarrel with the Ahirs of a neighbouring village invoked the aid of the Banaphars and, in return for the destruction of their enemies, handed over to them the *zamindari* of their village. This Jagatraj, whose headquarters were at Jaitpur, built the katra or market. His four sons all lived here and each built a house for himself, the ruins of which still exist. His descendant Kesri Singh built the Toriya fort, a small ruined building standing on a hill. From this fort, his branch of the family take their name; to it belonged Despat the outlaw, who overran the *pargana* during the Mutiny. The place has only risen to importance since it came into British possession. None of the Jaitpur family now reside here, but the Raja of Charkhari has a share in the *zamindari* of several villages in the neighbourhood. There is little to

relate regarding the history of Kulpahar. The place formed part of the Jaitpur estate, and the fort was taken by Ali Bahadur of Banda in 1790: it was dismantled in 1805.

KULPAHAR *Tahsil.*

Pargana Panwari-Jaitpur or Tahsil Kulpahar forms the south-western portion of the Hamirpur district and lies between the parallels of 25° 5′ and 25° 31′ N. and 79° 17′ and 79° 49′ E. On the south and on the west the symmetry of the border is much destroyed by the intrusions of territory belonging to the independent states of Alipura, Garrauli and Bihat, which also separate two large blocks and two isolated villages from the rest of the tahsil. The village of Naigawan, south east of Ajnar, is completely surrounded by the Chhatarpur state, and there are nine groups of villages belonging to the chiefs of Bihat, Naigawan Ribai and Garrauli completely enclosed within the tahsil. Generally speaking the tahsil is bounded on the west by the Dhasan river; on the south by the states of Alipura, Garrauli and Chhatarpur; on the west by Charkhari territory and tahsil Mahoba; and on the north by pargana Rath.

Its characteristics are similar to those of central India. In the south and along the central belt rugged hills or clusters of hills, covered with scrub jungle, prevail; while the soil is for the most part culturable *rakar* with a permanent heart of irrigable *parua*, interspersed with a little shallow *mar* in depressions. In the north-west, with the exception of a small portion near the Dhasan in the centre, where indifferent *mar* prevails similar in character to that found in the east of the tahsil, there succeeds a highlying plain of *parua* which continues into and the bulk of which lies in Rath. The Barma river flows from south to north through the western portion of the tahsil and is lined by broken ravine land along its immediate banks. But beyond the influence of these is a belt of *parua* similar to that found in the south of the tahsil. East of the stream this merges into a strip of indifferent *mar*, which passes into a tract of deep and generally good soil of the same description; while a narrow fringe in the southern portion of the eastern border is a continuation of the shallow *mar* tract of Mahoba. Near the north-eastern boundary the Arjun river

pursues its course towards the Barma, but while the country along its banks is broken the river is not flanked by any lowlying *parua* like the Barma. In Kulpahar as in Mahoba advantage has been taken of the situation of drainage channels between hills to construct those tanks for which this portion of the province is famous. The fine sheet of water near Jaitpur, called the Bela Tal, is the largest in the district, and other smaller tanks exist at Kulpahar, Palipahari, Passanahabad and Majhgawan. The last named is likely in the near future to be developed into a large irrigation reservoir.

The total area of the tahsil is 357,475 acres, or 559 square miles, out of which 54,794 acres, or 15·3 per cent., are barren or waste. The cultivated area averages normally some 160,000 acres, or 45·8 per cent. of the whole and the area of culturable waste some 142,011 acres, or nearly 40 per cent. The pargana differs greatly from all the northern tract in the district and cannot be compared with it but it has a considerably higher percentage under cultivation than its neighbour Mahoba. Normally 52 per cent. of the cropped area is devoted to the autumn and 48 per cent. to the spring harvest, the area of land double-cropped amounting to 12,000 acres. The chief crops grown are, here as elsewhere, *juar*, cotton, *til*, wheat, gram and barley. The area of *bajra* and cotton has considerably decreased during the currency of settlement, having been replaced by *juar* and *til*; gram has to a large extent ousted wheat, while barley has come more recently into favour. Sugarcane is grown to a considerable extent, the average area for the ten years ending in 1907 being 673 acres, but as a rule the land destined for this crop is not given the same careful preparation as in Rath. Irrigation is largely practised in Kulpahar and 11,000 acres are normally watered. The sources of supply are for the most part masonry wells in the southern tract, but canal irrigation from the Bela Tal accounts, on the average, for some 650 acres and there are many small tanks; while some lowlying *parua* near the Barma river is occasionally irrigated from earthen wells. The *parua* tracts are far the most stable portions of the tahsil, and they are the tracts that suffer least from agricultural calamity. The southern portion possesses, besides good irrigated *taretas*, large

stretches of jungle and waste which supply ample facilities for grazing and fuel. In 12 villages the hill jungles are conserved by the *zamindars*, provisory *jamas* having been fixed at the settlement of 1880 to take effect in the event of the timber being cleared otherwise than under the collector's instructions. These villages are Tola Sium, Sawasa, Indaura, Murhari, Ajnar, Gund, Siyaun, Larhpura, Ari, Budhwara, Karhara Dang and Bagaura.

The standard of cultivation is fairly high; Lodhis hold 31 per cent. of the tenants' cultivation, Brahmans 21 per cent., Ahirs 8 per cent., Kachhis 8 per cent. and Chamars 6 per cent. Rajputs are for the most part found in large proprietary communities and cultivate large areas of *sir* and *khudkasht*. At the recent settlement 53 per cent. of the cultivation was in the hands of tenants-at-will, 18 per cent., in those of occupancy-tenants, while proprietors themselves tilled 27 per cent., the remainder being rent-free. There are 286 villages in the tahsil divided into 614 *mahals*. Of the latter 133 are held by single *zamindars*, 225 are held in joint *zamindari*, 123 each in perfect and imperfect *pattidari*, and only 10 are *bhaiyachara*. The number of co-sharers in a joint *zamindari mahal* is usually very small, and they are commonly all members of one family. There is therefore little difference between single and joint *zamindari* estates and these two tenures account for 54·5 per cent. of the whole cultivated area—a considerably higher proportion than in any other pargana of the district. The largest landholders are the Rajputs of Malehta and Majhgawan in Rath, but there is no *zamindar* who pays more than Rs. 3,800 in revenue. Including these the largest proprietary castes are Brahmáns who own 26 per cent. of the area; they are followed by Rajputs with 23 per cent. and Lodhis with 21·9 per cent. The chiefs of Charkhari and Alipura or their relations hold approximately 10,400 acres scattered over 14 villages.

From the first regular census in 1865 up till 1891 the population of the tahsil remained remarkably steady with over 125,500 persons except in 1872, when it fell to 123,911. At the last enumeration in 1901 there was a loss of 5 per cent. and the number dropped to 111,926, of whom 55,596 were females. The average density comes to 210 persons per square mile, a

figure which is only exceeded in Hamipur and Rath and is distinctly high considering the large extent of hill and jungle. Classified according to religion there were 106,501 Hindus, 5,367 Musalmans, 47 Jains, 6 Aryas and 5 Parsis. Among the Hindus Brahmans were the most numerous caste, amounting to 19,217 persons, and were closely followed by Lodhis with 19,034: after them came Chamars 14,040, Kachhis 7,346, Ahirs 6,849, and Koris 7,468. Other castes with over two thousand members apiece were Dhimars, Nais, Kumhars, Banias, Basors, Telis and Rajputs. The last-named are fewer than in any other tahsil of the district, the only well represented clans being Parihars and Bundelas. Among the Musalmans Sheikhs predominate, followed by Behnas and, at a long interval, by Saiyids, Pathans and Faqirs. The tahsil is almost wholly agricultural in character, and the only industries in which many people are occupied are cotton-weaving and basket or mat-making.

The only towns in the tahsil are Kulpahar, the headquarters, and Jaitpur, the old residence of a Raja, both of which are administered under Act XX of 1856. Besides these there are only three villages, namely Supa, Ajnar and Panwari, (all of which have been noticed in separate articles) with over 2,000 inhabitants. A list of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

The construction of the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway has done much to improve the communications of the pargana. It traverses the tahsil from east to west and has stations at Ghutai, Jaitpur, Kulpahar and Supa, while Harpalpur lies just beyond its borders. If the proposed railway northwards through Rath is built the facilities for trade will be further improved. A good second-class road runs from Mahoba to Kulpahar and then branches off to Jaitpur on the one hand and to Panwari on the other: it is being gradually metalled. Fair roads connect Panwari with Harpalpur station, Kulpahar with Charkhari, Jaitpur with Nowgong and Supa with Srinagar, while sixth class roads run between Panwari and Kashipur and between Rath and Jaitpur. The metalled road from Nowgong to Mahoba passes through Pipra in the south-east corner of the pargana, and the metalled Harpalpur

Nowgong road skirts the north-western border. The south is not as yet well served with means of communication, but there has been some improvement of late years: roads were made from Jaitpur to Srinagar and Ajnar respectively in the famine of 1906, and the former is being continued through Bijauri to Nowgong. On the whole the pargana is better off for communications than any other in the district with the possible exception of Mahoba.

As regards the early history of Kulpahar there are many village and other traditions relating to the occupation of villages by Kols, Gonds, Lodhis, Parihars and Chandels. In the days of Akbar the tract appears to have fallen partly into the *mahal* of Rath in the *sarkar* of Kalpi, and partly into that of Mahoba in the *sarkar* of Kalinjar. Under the Bundelas it was included in the Jaitpur Raj. At the British occupation it was formed into a distinct pargana under the name of Panwari. But there was also a small Bundela pargana under the name of Supa which was also included in the British possessions, and it appears that even then Kulpahar also gave its name to a pargana, which was one of the assignments of Himmat Bahadur and lapsed to the British in 1804. The whole tract however seems to have been known as pargana Panwari and comprised a considerably larger area than that now in the tahsil; for most of the lands conferred by *sanad* on the chiefs of Alipura, Garrauli, Lughasi, Jigni and Bihat were carved out of pargana Panwari; and the 52 villages given to Raja Kesri Singh of Jaitpur also formed a portion of it. After all claimants had been satisfied the pargana assumed the dimensions which it held uninterruptedly till 1849, and shared the vicissitudes of other parganas at the earlier settlements. In that year the Jaitpur state lapsed and was combined with Panwari to form a single tahsil, known first as Panwari and subsequently as Kulpahar. In 1876 the two parganas were amalgamated and have since been known as Panwari-Jaitpur. At the present time the tahsil forms a criminal and revenue subdivision which, along with Mahoba, is in the charge of the subdivisional officer at Mahoba. For purposes of police administration there are stations at Kulpahar, Panwari, Ajnar and Kashipur: a few villages fall within the circles of Srinagar and Mahoba.

KURARA, *Pargana and Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

A small town lying in 25° 59′ N. and 80° 1′ E. on the road from Hamirpur to Kalpi, at a distance of eleven miles from the former place. It has two wards, known as the *Khan* and *Muli muhallas*, said to be called after the two sons of Nyai Singh, but nothing is known of the latter. Markets are held here on Sundays and Thursdays, and some trade in grain and cotton is done. Until a short time before the Mutiny Kurara was the headquarters of a tahsil. It now contains a third-class police station, post-office, canal bungalow and village school. There is a large encamping-ground 250 yards west of the town. The Marwaris and Banias of the place are not wealthy and live after the same manner as their poorer brethren, without any pretensions to elegance or even comfort. The *zamindars* have fallen on evil days and are now heavily indebted, and the place has much declined since *al* cultivation was discontinued. In 1872 the provisions of Act XX of 1856 were applied to the town: it then had a population of 4,897 persons; this fell to 3,612 in 1881, but rose again to 3,785 in 1891. Before the next census however, in 1901, when the inhabitants numbered 3,385, the provisions of the Act were withdrawn. The chief castes are Rajputs and Brahmans, and there are 147 Musalmans.

LALPURA, *Pargana* SUMERPUR, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

A small village lying in 25° 52′ N. and 80° 4′ E. at a distance of 10 miles from Hamirpur, on the main road to Rath. The population in 1901 numbered 216 persons, chiefly consisting of Brahmans and Rajputs. The village contains a third-class police station, pound and post-office: but is otherwise a place of no importance.

MAHOBA, *Tahsil* MAHOBA.

This town which, from an historical point of view, is the most important in the district, is the headquarters of the Mahoba subdivision and lies in 25° 18′ north latitude and 79° 53′ east longitude, on the Fatehpur-Banda-Saugor road. This road is joined at the village of Kabrai, 11 miles to the east, by the Cawnpore-Hamirpur section of the Saugor road, and other roads

diverge to Charkhari, to Lauri and to Kulpahar. The distance from the district headquarters is 54 miles, and from Nowgong cantonments in the south 32 miles. Two miles to the north-west is a railway station on the Jhansi-Manikpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula railway.

The joint magistrate's bungalow and court lie close to the railway station on the Charkhari road; but the tahsil and and police station are located in an old square fort to the north of the town. The business centre and only portion of the town which calls for separate mention is the bazar known as Grantganj after the collector who founded it and, at his own expense, built a handsome gateway to it. Besides the tahsil and police station, Mahoba contains a combined post and telegraph office, dispensary, encamping-ground, old *sarai* and vernacular secondary school. About half a mile to the east lies the dâk bungalow, and about one mile along the Nowgong road is a small inspection house belonging to the Public Works department. The quarters of the American Mission, with their school, hospital and orphanage, lie to the west, near the] Kirat Sagar lake. Three quarters of a mile beyond the town, close to the point where the Nowgong road diverges from the road leading to Mahoba, stands the large house built in 1905 for the settlement officer and intended to serve as the nucleus of a civil station when the contemplated transfer of the headquarters from Hamirpur to Mahoba should take place. It lies in a picturesque situation: but the locality has been condemned as unhealthy, and the project for shifting the headquarters is at present in abeyance.

The town is divided into three distinct portions—*Purana Qila*, or the old fort, lying to the north of a low granite hill, where most of the houses are to be found; *Bhitari Qila*, or the inner fort, on the top of the hill; and *Dariba*, or the *pan* shop, a small village lying on the south. There are four *muhallas*, known as Tiwaripura, Kachhipura Sheikhanpura, and Malikpura. The last is supposed to be named after one Malik Shah, an Arabian adventurer, who is mentioned in the *Mirat-i-masaudi* as having conquered Mahoba. He is said also to have killed the last Bhar Raja of Mahoba, whose fourteen wives became *sati* without the aid of earthly fire. The spot where this event

is supposed to have taken place is pointed out in *mauza* Bhatipura, near the Barokhar tank, and is known as the *Chaudah Rani ki Sati*. Though its ancient glory has long departed, Mahoba is a place of increasing trade. This has received considerable encouragement from the railway, and consists mainly in grain, *mahua*, *ghi* and *pan*. The last-named article is grown in and around the town itself, and is famous: it is exported by rail to places as distant as Calcutta and the Punjab. Mahoba, besides receiving much of the trade of the district, attracts most of that of Chhatarpur and Charkhari. Markets are held for grain on Saturdays; for *pan* on Mondays; and for cattle on Fridays. A cotton-pressing machine has lately been erected by Pandit Sheocharan Tiwari, the richest landholder in the district; and mainly through his influence a large fair has come to be celebrated annually in *Sawan*. Besides this, the *Kajalia* fair is held on the banks of Kirat Sagar on the first day of the dark half of *Bhadon*, and the *Siddh mela* on the Gokhar hill outside the town in the same month.

The population of Mahoba, which in 1865 numbered 6,413 persons, has steadily increased of late years. In 1872 it was 6,977, and in 1881, 7,577: and this rose to 8,512 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 it was found that there were 10,074 inhabitants, 5,171 of whom were females. Classified according to religion there were 7,391 Hindus, 2,421 Musalmans and 262 others—Christians, Aryas, Parsis or Jains. From 1871 to 1908 the town was administered under Act XX of 1856, but with effect from April 1st of the latter year it was converted into a notified area under Act I of 1900. Affairs in the town are managed by a committee consisting of the subdivisional officer as president, and the tahsildar and two inhabitants of the town as members. Income is now raised by a tax on persons carrying on a trade or practising a profession in the town, according to their circumstances and property, and is supplemented by miscellaneous receipts such as pound receipts, slaughter-house fees or weighment dues; it is expended in the maintenance of a force of 23 policemen, a staff of 19 sweepers and in local improvements. The average income and expenditure amount to some Rs 3,500 yearly.

Mahoba, like Kalinjar and other Hindu towns of renown, is believed to have existed from the most remote times, and to have borne different names in the successive cycles through which the world has passed; its name during the Treta-yug having been Kekpur; in the Dwapir yug, Patanpur; and in the Kala yug, the present evil age, Mahoba. The last is said to be derived from the great sacrifice, or Mahotsava, performed by its reputed founder, the Chandel Raja, Chandravarma, about 800 A. D. In Chand Bardai's poem the town is called Mohatsa, or Mohatsanagar. From all the evidence that remains it would appear that the civil capital of the Chandels was removed here from Khajuraho about 900 A. D., for the earliest Chandel sovereign locally commemorated is Rahila, the fifth of the dynasty, whose lake with a fine, though much injured cruciform granite temple on the embankment lies two miles to the south-west. The names of Kirtivarma and Madanavarma, the two greatest and most successful members of the Chandel dynasty, are known at Mahoba from the fine lakes, close to the town, which bear their names; while that of Raja Parmal, the last of the dynasty, in whose reign Mahoba is said to have been sacked by Pirthviraj, the Chauhan ruler of Dehli, is in every body's mouth. Whatever may have been the extent of the town in the days of its glory, the present village probably covers but a small portion of that which the ancient city occupied. It never became a place of much prominence either under the Musalmans or in the time of the Bundelas, though in the 17th and 18th centuries it attained to some importance, owing to the settlement of a large colony of Banjaras or travelling grain merchants. These people erected a new village to the east of the old town, and built there several stone houses, many of which are in good preservation. The Banjaras have now disappeared, and at the present day the chief inhabitants are Tiwari Brahmans and Musalmans. The place is considered unlucky for Chandel Rajputs and none reside there; and it is popularly supposed that the ghosts of the old chieftains still haunt the town. No Raja entering Mahoba can with impunity beat his drums within the precincts of the town; and it is related that on one occasion, some 50 years ago, when the Rajas of Charkhari and Chhatarpur ventured to do

so, they were reminded of their error by the loss of three horses and other calamities. No cartman dare stop at a place called Khanka Sahu in *muhalla* Pathanpura of Mahoba, for, if he did, his bullocks would surely die. The most noticeable feature of the town and the vicinity is the lakes, all of which are formed by means of massive embankments thrown across shallow valleys: these have already been described.* The Madan Sagar lies immediately above the town. In the north-west corner lies a rocky island, on which stands the famous Kakra Marh temple. It has fortunately escaped Muhammadan destruction, and is 103 feet long by 42 broad; but the material out of which it is constructed is granite, and there is no elaborate carving. The interior is of the usual pattern, with five chambers, the most noticeable of which is the transept or *mahamandapa*. The Kakra Marh was dedicated to Siva, and on another rocky island, a short distance away, are the ruins of a second temple called Madari, dedicated to Vishnu: little of it remains, except the foundations, but these are sufficient to show that, in its original form, it was even greater than the Kakra Marh. Both islands are connected with the shore by a stone causeway; on this are five life-sized statues of elephants carved in white sandstone. There are several other rocky islands in the bed of the lake, one of which is surmounted by a dilapidated Chandel *baithak* or summer house. The surface of the lake is covered with lotus leaves, and from its western side rises up in bold relief the hill of Gokhar, on which the boulders are piled in a wild and striking manner. There are here several figures representing human beings in different attitudes, carved out of the solid rock, and one of these, known as the Chanda Matwara, is still an object of worship.

Along the artificial embankment by which the lake is formed there are flights of granite steps and several modern temples; and it is on this side that the old Chandel fort lay. Of this two gates, a passage and portions of an apartment attributed to Parmal alone remain; but existing traces show that it covered an area of some 1,625 feet long from west to east, and 600 feet broad. The existing gates are known as the Bhainsa and Dariba *darwazas*, on the west and east side, respectively; and on the top of the wall is the so-called palace of Parmal, the remaining

portion of which, consisting of an open pillared hall, 80 feet long and 25 feet wide, was formerly converted into a mosque. The pillars are of massive granite over two feet square and twelve feet in height, and are richly decorated with deep mouldings. Just outside the Bhainsa *darwaza* there is a flat-roofed mosque supported on Hindu pillars, which, according to an inscription over the doorway, was constructed by Malik Taj-ud-din Ahmad in Hijri 722 (1322 A D.), during the reign of Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq. A short way to the east of this gate and on the embankment of the lake is the celebrated shrine of Maniya Devi. This goddess appears to have been the tutelar deity of the Chandels; temples dedicated to her exist only at Mahoba and at Maniyagarh, the old hill fort close to Khajuraho. Her figure seems to be a compromise between the Brahmanical Parvati and the female worshipped to this day by Gonds; and the fact that she was an object of adoration to the Chandels indicates their close connection with the Gonds. At Mahoba, however, she is represented only by a rude and almost indistinguishable figure, daubed with red, cut out of the solid rock, round which a very ordinary and obviously modern shrine has been built. Outside this is a massive stone pillar known as the *Dewal dip*, or, according to other accounts, as the *Alha ki Gili*, the staff of Alha. Passing further along we come to the *Dargah* of Pir Mubarak Shah, the legend of whom has already been related in Chapter III. The *Dargah* is built exclusively of Hindu materials, most of which are said to have come from a temple of Kirtivarma Chandel, standing on the same site; and it was in the wall of this *Dargah* that Major Cunningham discovered a valuable inscription in 1865. The only other noticeable Musalman building is the tomb of Jalhan Khan, which lies on the top of the hill near Kirat Sagar. Jalhan Khan is said to have accompanied the son of the Raja of Kanauj, who came to assist Parmal in his war with Prithviraj and to have been slain at the passage of the Betwa.

Besides the Hindu and Musalman remains in the town there is a number of broken Jain statues lying about the site, which indicate that there must have been a number of Jain temples in the place. On a hill adjoining the south-east bank of the

Madan Sagar there are 24 rock-hewn images of the *Tirthankaras*, with several inscriptions, dated *Sambat* 1206 (1149 A. D.). In 1908, while excavations were being made for the construction of a well in the house of a resident of the town, near Grantganj, a peculiarly rich find was made of what appear to be Buddhist statues in an excellent state of preservation. They had been placed carefully in the ground, face downwards and covered over with large stone slabs to protect them from injury; they consist of some life-size statues of black basalt, highly polished on the surface, and a number of smaller white marble statues. Evidently they had been stored away by the faithful in order to preserve them from the iconoclasm of the Musalmans.*

The early history of Mahoba has been given in the historical account of the district. It was never a place of much importance after the downfall of the Chandel power, though it was the headquarters of a *mahal* in imperial times. It seems to have formed part of the territory given by Chhatarsal to the Marathas; at any rate, not long after his death, it came into the possession of the subahdars of Jalaun, in whose hands it remained till 1840. Even in their time Srinagar and not Mahoba seems to have been the chief town of the tract; and under the British it was not till the opening of the railway that its importance began to be felt as a local centre. The near future may see considerable changes.

MAHOBA, *Pargana and Tahsil.*

This is the south-eastern subdivision of the district, and lies between the parallels of 25° 5′ and 25° 38′ N. and 79° 41′ and 80° 9′ E. In shape it is roughly an oblong, running north-east and south-west, with an odd strip of country, some 13 miles long and on an average 4 miles wide, jutting northwards from the north-eastern corner. On the south Mahoba is bounded by the Chhatarpur state; on the east by the same state, by Charkhari territory and the Banda district; while the western border marches half with that of Kulpahar tahsil and half with that of the large block of the Charkhari territory which is surrounded on on all sides by the Hamirpur district and contains the capital

* Several bear short inscriptions and dates: they are at present kept in the tahsil, pending orders for their disposal.

town of the Raja. The northern boundary of the projecting portion touches tahsil Maudaha. The extreme length of the tahsil is 40 miles and the greatest breadth 15 miles: the total area is 210,847 acres, or 329 square miles.

The neck and northern third of the main block of the pargana lie in the *mar* plain. The soil in this part is deep and similar to that in the northern portion of the district, but it is broken towards the south by some clusters of isolated hills in and around Kabrai. The Sihu *nadi* runs through Kauhari and Goindi in the extreme north, and a branch of the Chandrawal flows diagonally through Singhanpur and Surha, while a branch of the latter stream, called the Magaria *nala*, passes northwards of Kabrai. These streams naturally affect the character of the country to some extent; and in the neighbourhood of their channels is found a certain amount of broken land and undulating *parua:* but, with these exceptions, the tract is a fairly homogeneous stretch of *mar*, interspersed with patches of *kabar*. In the central block of the pargana the scenery changes: cluster after cluster of low rocky hills, advantage of whose presence has been taken to form those lakes for which Mahoba is famous, crop up in all directions, and form a pleasing contrast to the dreary black soil plains of the north. The soils, however, are naturally poor: *mar* of moderate quality is met with in a few places, but the prevailing soil is *parua*, much of which is capable of irrigation by small canals from the large lakes. The southern portion of the pargana partakes to some extent of the characteristics of both the more northerly tracts. The western half is hilly and contains a few lakes, the hills being covered with stunted jungle; but in the eastern half only scattered outcrops are met with, and in the extreme south there are no hills at all. About Pawa, in the west, there is a belt of fair *parua*, but the prevailing soil throughout the tract is a dark and friable but shallow *mar* which contains a large admixture of big *kankar* nodules. All the villages have some irrigation near the sites, and some have considerable areas of soil watered from wells, which closely approach in character the *taretas* of Jhansi. Over the whole pargana 30 per cent. of the cultivated area is *mar*, 11 per cent. is *kabar*, 26 per

cent. is *parua* and 32 per cent. is *rakar*. Of the total area only 23,050 acres, or 10·8 per cent., are recorded barren; but in a pargana with so much almost worthless land in it the term "culturable area" has only a very vague meaning. The area under the plough rose in 1882-83 to 118,444 acres: it amounted to 56 per cent. of the whole and may be regarded as a maximum. The decennial average area of cultivation for the pargana is only 76,980 acres, but, as in other portions of the district, the fluctuations are very great: the assumed area of cultivation taken at the recent settlement amounts to 85,100 acres. There is a considerable amount of irrigation from the lakes, from tanks and from wells: it amounts in a normal year to 6·1 per cent. of the area cultivated, and ranges from 18·5 per cent. in the southern third of the tahsil to only ·9 in the northern. The *kharif* is by for the most important harvest, nearly twice as large an area being on an average sown with *kharif* as with *rabi* crops: it covers some 52,800 acres as against 28,400 in the spring. The double-cropped area is very small, amounting on the average to 4,400 acres only. The principal *kharif* crops are *juar*, cotton and *til*, with a little *bajra* and sugarcane, while in the *rabi* gram is the staple crop, and is followed at a long interval by linseed, barley and wheat.

The standard of cultivation is fairly good, the pargana being better off than those in the north-east of the district in the more industrious tenants, but not nearly so well off as parganas Rath and Kulpahar. Brahmans, Rajputs and Lodhis hold each some 18 per cent. of the tenants' area; Kachhis come next with 10 per cent., and Ahir and Chamars have 6 per cent. each. At the recent settlement 71·42 per cent of the cultivation was in the hands of tenants and 26·45 in those of the proprietors themselves, the remainder being rent-free. There are 100 villages divided into 214 *mahals*. Of the latter 19 are owned by single proprietors and 61 are held in joint *zamindari*, comprising 10 and 22 per cent. of the area, respectively; 70 *mahals* or 27 per cent. are held in perfect and 56 or 27 per cent. in imperfect *pattidari* tenure; 8, representing 14 per cent. of the area, are *bhaiyachara*. The chief proprietary castes are Brahman and Rajputs who

own 27 per cent. of the total area each. Lodhis have nearly 9 per cent. and the rest is divided between Banias, Marwaris, Musalmans, Kayasths and miscellaneous castes. The only large proprietor in the tahsil is Sheo Charan Tiwari of Mahoba, who pays Rs. 2,300 in revenue : seven families pay between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 and five between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, so that the bulk of the area is in the hands of small proprietors. Only two Rajputs, one of them the Maharaja of Charkhari, and one Lodhi appear in the list of proprietors paying over Rs. 500 in revenue. The pargana did not come into possession of the British till it lapsed with the rest of the Jalaun state. Summary settlements were made with the people by Lieutenant Doolan and the other superintendents of the Jalaun state or Jalaun district : and at the first of these, in 1839, Rs. 82,125 were assessed. In the follwing year the demand was raised to Rs. 87,702, but it was reduced to Rs. 79,851 in 1845, and at Major Erskine's settlement, in 1850, stood at Rs. 80,167. Mr. Freeling's settlement in 1856 further reduced the demand to Rs. 67,369; and the subsequent fiscal history of the pargana has already been sketched in chapter IV. There are five revenue free villages in the tahsil, namely, Bhainsta, Nahdaura, Dandhat Kumdhaura and Atrar.

The population of the tahsil steadily increased between 1872 and 1891, when it stood at 74,200. At the last enumeration, however, Mahoba contained only 61,938 inhabitants, of whom 30,867 were females. The average density on total area was 188 persons per square mile, ranging from 319 in the closely cultivated tract of the south to 149 in the black soil plains of the north. The density on total area, however, is much lowered by the large extent of rocky hill and jungle in the pargana, which for this reason cannot be compared as a whole with other tahsils. Classified according to religion there were 57,627 Hindus, 4,048 Musalmans, 256 Christians, 3 Parsis, 2 Aryas and 2 Jains. Among the Hindus, Chamars were the most numerous caste, amounting to 9,538 persons, and after them came Brahmans, 6,377; Kachhis, 5,348; Rajputs, 5,151; Lodhis, 4,757; and Ahirs, 3,907. The only other castes with over 2,000 members apiece were Koris and Kahars, and the only well represented

Rajput clan was the Bais. Among the Musalman population Sheikhs predominated, followed by Pathans, Saiyids and Behnas. The tahsil is almost wholly agricultural in character, practically the entire population being dependent either directly on agriculture or connected with the trade in agricultural produce.

The only town now in the tahsil is the notified area of Mahoba, the headquarters, the provisions of Act XX of 1856 having been withdrawn from Srinagar in 1901. There are, however, some very large and important villages, such as Goindi, Surha and Pahra, the most remarkable feature of which is their size. Goindi covers an area of no less than 20 square miles. Mahoba is the central market for trade of all kinds: the market towns, whose trade is local, are Srinagar, Kabrai and Goindi. A list of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the tahsil will be found in the appendix. As regards communications, Mahoba is the best served pargana in the district. Twenty-one miles of the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway, with three stations, namely, Kabrai, Karipahari and Mahoba, which lie within the tahsil. The metalled road from Banda to Nowgong runs thoughout the whole length of the tahsil, excluding the northern peninsula, and no village in this portion is more than 7 miles from the road: from Kabrai a branch of the road runs to Hamirpur, and, though this latter road does not run through country belonging to the tahsil the villages in the northern peninsular are all within easy reach of it. Other metalled roads run from Mahoba to the capital of the Charkhari state, and to Lauri, a tahsil headquarters in Chhatarpur, while one from the capital of Chhatarpur state joins the Nowgong road at Kaimaha. There are several unmetalled roads, the best of which runs westwards from Mahoba to Kulpahar; but Srinagar is connected with Jaitpur and Supa stations, and there is an unfinished road through Goindi and Surha.

In the days of Akbar Mahoba formed a *mahal* or fiscal subdivision in the *sarkar* of Kalinjar, and probably comprised a considerably larger tract of country than is now included in it. There is some evidence to show that, though nominally forming a portion of the empire, it was held for

many years in feof by a branch of the Bundelas, who were descended from Rao Udiajit, youngest son of Rudr Pratap, the founder of Orchha; but this cannot be determined with accuracy. Under Chhattarsal Jaitpur appears to have been a more imporant place than Mahoba; and the pargana of Mahoba seems to have been assigned by him to the Marathas. At any rate from about the middle of the 18th century it was in the possession of the Marathas, and was administered by the Subahdars of Jalaun till its lapse in 1840. At the present day it forms a criminal and revenue subdivision which, along with Kulpahar, is in the charge of the subdivisional magistrate of Mahoba. For purposes of police administration there are stations at Mahoba, Kabrai and Srinagar.

MAHOBA SUBDIVISION.

The Mahoba subdivision comprises tahsils Mahoba and Kulpahar, which for administrative purposes are in the charge of a joint magistrate, stationed at Mahoba. This portion of the district was constituted a separate subdivision in 1893 for three reasons*; firstly on account of the very inconvenient situation of Hamirpur, especially during the rains, when that place is cut off by a swollen river from the rest of the district; secondly, the prevalence at the time of a considerable amount of dacoity in the south of the district and the contiguous portions of the native states; and, lastly, owing to the presence of a fair-sized European and Eurasian population at Mahoba. Previous to this a deputy collector had ordinarily been stationed at Mahoba, but from 1893 it was considered desirable to have a covenanted assistant always posted there. The appointment did not affect the sanctioned staff of the district in any way, and the subdivisional officer is in all matters subordinate to the district magistrate, who resides at Hamirpur.

MAHOBA KANTH, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR,

A small village lying in 25° 21′ N. and 79° 25° E. on the road between Panwari and Harpalpur railway station. In

* Commissioner of Allahabad to the Secretary, Board of Revenue, no. $\frac{6328}{389}$, dated 27-7-1892, and connected correspondence; also G. O. no. $\frac{1566}{1-40B}$, dated 5-6-1908 to the Government of India.

1901 the village contained a population of 532 persons, the majority of whom were Brahmans. The place is only noted for the large fair which is annually held here on the 12th January, in honour of the Siddh Nath temple : it is attended by about 2,000 persons.

MAJHGAWAN, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

A large village lying in 25° 37′ N. and 79° 25′ E. close to the Dhasan river, 13 miles north-west of Rath. The place is best known as the settlement of a body of Parihar Rajputs who claim descent from Raja Nahar Rao. The latter is said to have come from Mount Abu and settled in Jigni whence he overran the Dhasan-side villages in both Jhansi and Hamirpur. A descendant of his, Raja Ram Parihar, built the fort of Ramgarh, the remains of which still exist in the ravines between the village and the river. The family still own a considerable property in the neighbourhood and the present head, Diwan Balbhadr Singh, is a *darbari*. The population of the place in 1901 was 1,858 persons, and it contains a third-class police station, pound, school and post-office. A number of the Rajput inhabitants enlist in the Indian army.

MAKARBAI, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHOBA.

A small village in 25° 21′ N. and 80° 5′ E. close to the main road from Mahoba to Kabrai, 9 miles east of the former and three miles south of the latter place. The earliest inhabitants of the village were Kols and Bhils or Ahirs, who were first expelled by Bagri and subsequently by Bais Rajputs. The local tradition is that, in the time of the Chandel rule, one Makrand Singh, the leader of a band of Rajputs, seized the village, and on the day of the *Diwali* festival massacred the Ahir inhabitants. The *zamindars* say that their ancestors were appointed *chaudhris* of a group of 84 villages by Nawab Muhammad Khan Bangash, and that, in return for their services in collecting revenue, they enjoyed the eight villages, now owned by Bais Rajputs in the neighbourhood, revenue-free. The village now contains a population of 1,547 persons and a school. The principal Hindu caste residing in the place is that of Chamars. There are many

old remains in Makarbai, one, a large pillared hall, being known as Parmal's *baithak*. There is also a fine old tank, and the ruins of what must at one time have been a singularly fine Chandel temple; it possesses three instead of one sanctum, and is apparently dedicated to Buddha. It is built of granite and is the best preserved temple of its size in the district.

MAUDAHA, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

The headquarters of the tahsil is a considerable town lying about a mile east of the metalled road from Hamirpur to Mahoba, in 25° 40′ N. and 80° 7′ E., at an elevation of 400 feet above the level of the sea, and at a distance of 20 miles from Hamirpur. Through the town runs the road from Banda to Jalalpur and Kalpi, while other roads run north to join the metalled road at Ingotha, and west to Muskira and Rath. To the north of the town there is a military encamping-ground. Besides the tahsil buildings, there are a first-class police station, middle vernacular school, post-office and cattle pound. Markets are held here twice a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays. There are five *muhallas* in the town known as the *Husaini*, *Haidariya*, *Qaziana*, *Taraus* and *Uparaus*, the last two signifying lower and upper and being named after their respective positions. The *Qaziana muhalla* derives its name from the Qazis Taj and Jalal-ud-din, who received *sanads* in the second year of the reign of Aurangzeb. According to the story the town was founded by one Sheikh Ahmad, a native of Egypt, who with the aid of a Parihar Rajput expelled the Kols and took possession of the place. His sons Husain and Haidar founded the *muhallas* called after them. This Husain afterwards quarelled with the Parihars, who migrated to Ingotha. The original fort was built by Bijai Bahadur of Charkhari. This was subsequently replaced by a stone fort erected on the same site by Nawab Ali Bahadur of Banda; in this are now located the police station and the road bungalow. There are three mosques in the town, one of which was built by Ali Bahadur and another by a courtezan named Azim-un-Nissa. There are five tanks, at one of which, known as the *Ilahi*, a fair is held in the month of Jeth in honour of Saiyid Salar, who is generally known here as Ghazi

Mian. There are three noted *dargahs* in the town, called after *Pir Sukhru*, *Moti Shahid* and *Sheikh Chand*. The *dargah* of *Pir Sukhru* is considered holy, because when it rains the enclosure is filled with water which disappears immediately. The saint is said to have been eaten by worms and people who are similarly afflicted, or whose cattle suffer from a similar disease, use the earth of the *dargah* as a medicinal application. The *dargah* of *Moti Shahid*, a *faqir* who rose to great wealth, is similarly resorted to by persons suffering from fever, but on Fridays only. *Sheikh Chand* was a venerable person who lived about 1800 A. D. and who was so perfect that he used to go about naked. One day while wandering about the fields round Maudaha he asked the owner whose was the land on which he was standing, and on being courteously told that it was his, suddenly disappeared; his tomb was erected on the spot. During the Mutiny the fort was assaulted by the rebels under a Maratha named Bhaskar Rao, who for a time held possession of Jalalpur, but they were beaten off with the aid of a few men from Charkhari. Maudaha has always been a seat of local authority, and in 1725 Daler Khan, the *chela* and agent of Muhammad Khan Bangash was killed here in a battle with Chhatarsal. Subsequently, about 1734, a battle was fought here between Pahar Singh, Raja of Jaitpur, and his nephews Guman and Khuman Singh, and again, about 1765, Khuman Singh was defeated by Noni Arjun Singh and the Banda forces.

Maudaha has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since 1860, and has an average income and expenditure of Rs. 1,100. The police force consists of ten men of all grades, while for the purposes of conservancy there is a staff of ten sweepers. In 1865 the population numbered 6,228 persons: in 1872 the number fell to 6,025, in 1881 it was 6,116 and in 1891 had risen to 6,621. At the census of 1901 there were 6,172 inhabitants, of whom 3,100 were Musalmans, for the most part the descendants of Hindu converts. The *zamindari* belongs to Seth Sham Karan of Banda, an impoverished banker, and some peculiar privileges as regards the payment of rent by the tenants have been mentioned in chapter IV. The tomb of Daler Khan, situated about a mile outside the town, is the resort of a considerable number of votaries every

Thursday in *Chait.* The town has only a small trade in agricultural produce, but its silversmiths have some skill in the manufacture of curious jointed fishes. The American Mission of Mahoba have a branch in the town.

MAUDAHA *Pargana, Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

Maudaha is the eastern pargana of the tahsil of the same name. It is bounded on the north by pargana Sumerpur, on the west by pargana Muskira, and, on the south and north-east by tahsils Banda and Pailani of the Banda district. Pargana Mahoba just touches it in the south-west, and except in the extreme south-eastern corner, the eastern border is formed by the Ken river. It has a total area of 148,452 acres, or 232 square miles.

The pargana is roughly oblong in shape, its length from west to east being 22 miles and its average breadth from north to south 12 miles. It is essentially a black soil pargana whose level is only broken along the courses of minor streams, such as the Sihu, Chandrawal and Shiam. The first of these enters it in the western portion of the southern border and flows in a north-easterly direction for a few miles: it joins the Chandrawal just after that stream enters the pargana. The united stream, under the name of Chandrawal, flows east until it is joined by the Shiam, which enters Maudaha in the south, and then continues north-eastwards till it leaves the pargana at Kaithi. All these streams flow in deep and tortuous channels, the country on either flank being broken; and a similar belt of uneven ground is found along the banks of the Ken. Actual ravines are scarce, though they occur along the Ken and in a few places along the Chandrawal; but all the soil in the vicinity of the streams is thoroughly scoured and consists mainly of *rakar* or poor *parua* soil. Of the whole cultivated area, 27 per cent. is classified as *mar*, 29 per cent. as *kabar*, 27 per cent. as *parua* and 14 per cent. as *rakar*, the small remainder being alluvial or garden land.

At the recent settlement, in 1906, 78,584 acres or 53 per cent. of the total area were under the plough: this is well up to the average of the preceding 10 years, but somewhat below that of the years succeeding the previous settlement in 1880. The highest

area recorded was 91,631 acres in 1879-08 and the lowest 67,393 acres in 1897-19. For a tract which has so small a proportion of really bad land, the cultivated area is not high; but the pargana suffers, especially in the west, from a deficiency of population; and though most of the *mar* is cultivated, the *kabar* is generally much neglected. Of the total area only 8·5 per cent., or 12,715 acres, is returned as barren, and an additional 2·7 per cent. is culturable waste; this leaves some 60,000 acres of old and new fallow which might normally come under the plough. Irrigation is conspicuously absent, the average area irrigated being less than 500 acres, or one per cent. of that cultivated. Any appreciable spread of irrigation, unless a canal is introduced, is practically impossible; water lies in the wells at a distance of 50 to 80 feet below the surface, and there are hardly any tanks. The principal harvest is the *kharif*, which occupies on an average 55 per cent. of the area under the plough, compared with 45 per cent. in the *rabi*. The area devoted to cotton has, as elsewhere in Bundelkhand, considerably decreased during the last 30 years, and now *juar* covers two-thirds of the entire area sown with *kharif* crops, while wheat and gram in combination and gram alone occupy practically the whole of the area sown with *rabi*.

The population of the pargana, after increasing from 48,302 at settlement to 57,223 in 1891, fell to 45,021 in 1901: this gives a density of only 194 persons to the square mile. Of the tenants' land 30 per cent. is cultivated by Rajputs, 21 per cent. by Musalmans and 11 per cent. by Brahmans: Ahirs, Kachhis, Chamars and Kewats hold some 18 per cent. between them, and the remaining 20 per cent. is in the hands of miscellaneous castes. Over the whole pargana 78·41 per cent. of the holdings area is in the hands of tenants; 20·48 per cent. in those of proprietors and 1·11 per cent. is rent-free or nominally rented. Maudaha contains 95 villages, at present divided into 155 *mahals*. Of the latter, 43, containing 15·4 per cent. of the cultivated area, are held by single proprietors, and 46 or 36·1 per cent. is owned in joint *zamindari*: 25 estates or 8·2 per cent. are held in perfect and 18 or 14·3 per cent. in imperfect *pattidari* tenure, while 23 or 26 per cent. are *bhaiyachara*. The *zamindari* area is thus much

greater than it is in other parganas, the prevalence of this tenure being due to the severity of the old assessments, especially those in force between 1815 and 1830, when many of the old proprietors were ruined and their estates sold to outside capitalists. The chief proprietary castes are Brahmans, Banias and Rajputs, each of whom own 25 per cent. of the pargana, while next to them come Musalmans with 11 per cent. and Marwaris with 10 per cent. The two largest proprietors are the Seths of Banda and the Dubes of Khandeh, the latter place being a village close to the pargana border in Banda tahsil; but both of these proprietors are impoverished, and their estates are now being gradually sold for debt. There is only one revenue-free village, that of Tilsaras. The fiscal history has already been sketched in chapter IV, and the demands imposed on the pargana at successive settlements will be found in the appendix.*

The only town in the pargana is the headquarters of the tahsil, which is administered under Act XX of 1856. It is very centrally placed, but is not now a town of any importance. There are some large unwieldy villages, such as are usually found in black soil tracts, at Artara, Karhaia and Sayar; but such villages are fewer than in Sumerpur pargana to the north. Communications are on the whole abundant. The metalled road from Hamirpur to Kabrai passes, north and south, through the pargana about a mile west of the headquarters, which are connected with it by a metalled feeder road. Second-class roads radiate to Sisolar, Banda, Jalalpur, and Muskira respectively, while the second-class road from Banda to Hamirpur runs along the east of the pargana through Sisolar. Markets are held twice a week at Maudaha and Sisolar.

Except for settlement purposes the pargana does not form a separate subdivision, and other details regarding it will found under the tahsil article.

MAUDAHA *Tahsil.*

Maudaha tahsil comprises the parganas of Muskira and Maudaha, and lies between 25° 30′ and 25° 52′ north latitude and 79°43′ and 80°21′ east longitude. The total area of the tahsil

* Appendix, table IX.

is 290,446 acres, or 452 square miles. It is bounded on the north by pargana Sumerpur and tahsil Pailani of Banda, on the west by tahsil Rath, the dividing line being the Barma river; on the south by Charkhari territory, tahsil Mahoba and the Banda district; and on the east by the Ken river. Its physical characteristics together with details of crops, cultivation, villages and proprietors have been sufficiently set forth in the pargana articles.

The population of the tahsil increased rapidly to 103,900 in 1891; but at the enumeration in 1901 the number of inhabitants was found to have fallen to 87,322, or by 19 per cent.: of this number 43,534 were females. Classified according to religion there were 78,493 Hindus, 8,819 Musalmans, 8 Aryas, one Jain and one Christian. Among the Hindus the most numerous caste was that of Chamars, who numbered 11,440 persons, and after them came Brahmans, 8,147; Rajputs, 7,815; Ahirs, 6,220; Lodhis, 4,737; Koris, 4,379; and Kachhis, 4,311. The only other castes with over 2,000 representatives were Kumhars, Banias and Kahars; while the best represented of the Rajput clans were Bais and Dikhits. A distinguishing feature of the population is the comparatively large number of Musalmans, who are numerous in Maudaha itself and several villages to the south and west of it. Among them Sheikhs and Pathans predominate: they are for the most part the descendants of Rajput converts, and form an industrious and well behaved portion of the population. The tahsil is wholly agricultural in character, and practically the entire population is dependent for subsistence either on agriculture or the trade in agricultural produce: there is no manufacture of any importance.

The communications of the tahsil have been sufficiently described in the pargana articles, and a list of the schools, ferries, post-offices, fairs and markets will be found in the appendix. In the days of Akbar, Maudaha formed a *mahal* or fiscal subdivision in the *sarkar* of Kalinjar, and probably included, besides Muskira, the whole of Sumerpur. At the present day the tahsil forms a revenue and criminal subdivision, which is usually entrusted to a full-powered officer on the district staff; and for purposes of police administration the jurisdiction is divided between the circles of Maudaha, Muskira and Bewar. The con-

stitution of the tahsil, as it stands at present, only dates from 1894, when the tahsil of Jalalpur was broken up, the tract lying east of the Barma river, comprising the pargana of Muskira, being added to the pargana of Maudaha to form the present tahsil.

MUSKIRA, *Pargana* MUSKIRA, *Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

This small town is now the capital of a pargana and lies in 25°40′ N. and 79°47′ E. The town lies on the road from Hamirpur to Rath, at a distance of 28 miles from the former. Other roads lead to Jalalpur, Maudaha and Charkhari. There is an encamping-ground 100 yards north-west of the village on the Hamirpur road. Muskira contains a third-class police station, pound, post-office, road bungalow, *sarai* and village school. There is a bazar in which markets are held on Sundays. The village belongs to Lodhi *zamindars* who claim to have been in possession since the days of the Chandels. The name is said to be a corruption of *Mahesh-khera*, and a temple dedicated to that deity is still extant. The population has declined from 3,234 in 1865 to 2,814 persons in 1901: of these 337 were Musalmans. A small fair, locally known as the *Saira*, is held here in the month of *Pus*, but gives rise to no trade. Muskira was formerly the headquarters of a tahsil which were removed here from Jalalpur in 1882. When Muskira was abolished as a separate tahsil in 1894 the Muskira pargana was incorporated in tahsil Maudaha and the Jalalpur pargana in tahsil Rath, the Barma river being left as the dividing boundary.

MUSKIRA *Pargana, Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

The pargana of Muskira, which now forms a part of Maudaha tahsil, is a long and narrow subdivision lying parallel to the Barma river, which separates it on the west from pargana Jalalpur in Rath tahsil. The two villages of Bijehta and Bhadina Achpura, which are almost separated from the rest of the pargana by the Beri state, touch the Betwa on the north, while on the south lies the large block of the Charkhari state, which is surrounded on all sides by the district. On the east the pargana boundary simply marches with those of

pargana Maudaha and Sumerpur. It has a total area of 141,994 acres, or 222 square miles.

Muskira forms the westerly, larger and richer portion of the old tahsil of Jalalpur which was broken up in 1894. Its superior size is the chief reason why it is more fertile than pargana Jalalpur, which in most respects it closely resembles. The best land is found, as a rule, at a distance from rivers and their tributaries; and as Muskira is practically unaffected by the Betwa, while its broadest part is in the south where the Barma runs well below the level of the adjoining country and does little harm, broader expanses of firm level soil are to be found in it than in Jalalpur. The top of the watershed along the Barma lies within three miles of that stream, and it is here, especially in the south of the pargana, that good *mar* is found. This good *mar* continues till it reaches the village of Basot, where two bold pointed rocks form the principal landmark in the pargana, the level being only broken by the small channel of the Lilwahi *nala*, which cuts off the greater parts of the villages Kharela, Puniyan and Orai, and in the vicinity of which the *mar* deteriorates. Northwards of Basot is an uneven plain consisting for the most part of average *kabar*, interspersed with plots of good or bad *parua* and variegated with patches of *dhak* or *babul* jungle. In Bewar there is some superior *kabar*, and to the north again some excellent *mar* is found in the small uninhabited village of Chak Bandhur Khurd. The villages along or near the rivers resemble those in similar situations elsewhere; they have little black soil, large stretches of *rakar* and small blocks of level lowlying *parua*, with occasional pieces of *kachhar* and *tari*. Over the whole pargana the cultivated area as classified at the recent settlement in 1907 comprised 28 per cent. of *mar*, 25 per cent. of *kabar*, 28 per cent. of *parua*, 18 per cent. of *rakar* or the sandy soil called *bhat*, and 1 per cent. garden or alluvial land.

Cultivation is marked by all those fluctuations that are common to black soil tracts in Bundelkhand, and has, during the currency of settlement, varied between 100,825 acres in 1882-83 and only 57,788 acres in 1897-98, the average for the ten years ending in 1906 being some 68,000 acres. Of the

remaining area 20,375 acres, or 14·3 per cent., are returned as barren and some 50,400 acres, or 35 per cent., including old and new fallow, which vary greatly with the area under cultivation, as culturable waste. The standard of cultivation is generally poor and the irrigated area is very small, only some 900 acres being normally watered. Though nothing definite can be laid down owing to the great fluctuations, it may be said that the *kharif* is normally the principal harvest; it occupies some 57 per cent. of the total cropped area as against 47 per cent. sown in the *rabi*. The double-cropped area does not usually exceed 2,000 acres. The chief crops grown are *juar*, cotton, *til* and *bajra* in the *kharif*, and gram, with or without a varying mixture of wheat, in the *rabi*.

The population of the pargana, which was 45,930 at the settlement of 1880, fell to 42,155 in 1901, giving only a density of 190 persons per square mile. As regards the tenant body, the pargana is better off than its neighbours to the north and east, for Lodhis hold 26 per cent. of the land: of the remainder 20 per cent. is in the hands of Brahmans, 15 per cent. is tilled by Rajputs and 6 per cent. by Ahirs: no other castes cultivate more than 4 per cent. Of the total holdings area in the year of settlement 69·08 per cent. was in the hands of tenants and 29·56 per cent. in those of the proprietors themselves, the small remainder being rent-free. There are 67 villages in the pargana, at present divided into 148 *mahals*. Of the latter 21, representing 9 per cent. of the cultivated area, are held by single proprietors; 41 or 28 per cent. in joint *zamindari*; 22 or 11·4 per cent. are owned in perfect and 51 or 36·8 per cent in imperfect pattidari tenure; while 13 or 14·6 per cent. are *bhaiyachara*. The bulk of the land is therefore in the hands of small proprietary communities, the chief proprietary castes being Rajputs, Brahmans and Lodhis: and there are only 19 landholders who pay more than Rs. 500 in revenue each.

The pargana contains no market or other town of importance; and though there are six villages having over 2,000 inhabitants apiece, namely Muskira, Baswari, Pahari Bhitari, Gahrauli, Bewar and Kharela, none of them are anything but large agricultural estates. Kharela, whose area covers 25 square miles, has declined in importance since the extension of the bazar at Charkhari;

and there is a little business done in grain and hides at Muskira, Bewar and Gahrauli. The best road in the pargana is a second-class road which runs through Muskira from Rath to Hamirpur; it is being metalled and a bridge has recently been provided where it crosses the Barma. Other unmetalled roads run north and south from Muskira to Jalalpur, from Muskira to Kharela and from Bewar to Kharela, and east to west from Goindi to Chhani and from Maudaha to Jalalpur. Levels have been taken for a railway which will cross the pargana on its way from Rath to Maudaha: and if this line is ever completed it will greatly improve the communications of the tract. Muskira does not form a separate subdivision for any purposes but those of settlement. Combined with Maudaha pargana it forms the tahsil of Maudaha; and under the tahsil article with be found details concerning its prevalent castes.

PACHKHURA, *Pargana* SUMERPUR, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

A large village consisting of two sites known as Pachkhura Buzurg and Pachkhura Khurd, lying in 25° 52′ N. and 80° 17′ E., on the cart track from Sumerpur to Sarauli ferry on the Jumna, about two miles from the Banda border and twelve miles from Hamirpur. It is an ancient place standing on a mound covered with broken bricks and fragments of sculpture. Old coins are said to be found here occasionally after the rains, and in 1877 a large find of Bactrian coins belonging to the reigns of Menander, Apollodotus, Antimachus, Nikephoros and Eukratides was dug up at the roots of a *dhak* tree. The village contains a school and had in 1901 a population of 1,862 persons, for the most part Gautam Rajputs, Brahmans, Kachhis and Chamars.

PAHARI BHITARI, *Pargana* MUSKIRA, *Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A large village lying close to Gahrauli in 25° 38′ N. and 79° 49′ E., 19 miles west of Maudaha. The population in 1901 numbered 2,636 persons, and chiefly consisted of Lodhis and Brahmans. The village derives its name from the fact that it is situated near a hill, and that a portion of it is situated on a *bhita* or elevated place. It contains a school and has a small weekly

market on Wednesdays. The only point of interest in the place is a curious underground temple.

PAHRA, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHOBA.

A large village near the district boundary, 13 miles east of Mahoba and 2½ miles south of Kabrai railway station; it lies in 25° 22′ N. and 80° 6′ E. The village has some interesting Chandel remains and a large tank, which it was proposed in 1879 to utilise for irrigation; the scheme was subsequently found to be unremunerative and was dropped. In 1901 the population numbered 1,165 persons, the principal Hindu caste being Rajputs, most of whom were Parihars.

PANWARI, *Pargana* PANWARI-JAITPUR, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR.

This town was formerly the capital of a pargana and tahsil. The pargana has now been amalgamated with Jaitpur, while the tahsil headquarters were removed from here to Kulpahar in 1857. During the confusion of the Mutiny the native officials fled for refuge to Charkhari, where they remained for four or five months. In 1858 the tahsil was established in the fort at Sungra, and in 1872 was again removed to Kulpahar.

Panwari lies in 25° 26′ N. and 79° 30′ E. at the junction of three roads leading from Kulpahar, Rath and Mau, the last being in the Jhansi district; it is distant thirteen miles from Rath and sixty-three miles from Hamirpur. It contains a third-class police station, post-office, cattle-pound, road bungalow and middle vernacular school. To the south of the Kulpahar road and 200 yards south-east of the town there is an encamping-ground. Markets are held in Panwari on Mondays and Thursdays. The town possesses ten *muhallas* known as *Gauranpur*, *Sheikhanpura*, *Qazipura*, *Qanungopura*, *Julehti*, *Bazar*, *Ainotripura*, *Matapura*, so called from the temple of Mata Devi, *Maulanpura* named after one Maula Hafiz, and *Bhaironpura* from Bhairon, a Kayasth. The population in 1901 numbered 3,437 souls, of whom 823 were Musalmans, many of these being descended from Hindu converts. In 1865 the number of inhabitants was 3,416, rising to 3,670 in 1872.

The town is said to have been founded by one Pandwari, who in 900 A. D. expelled Kols, Bhils and other aborigines; but another tradition says that it was originally named Parharpur and was founded by Parihar Rajputs. There is very little of interest in the place, except perhaps the tombs of Bhai Khan and Pir Hakim, which are still objects of some reverence: these two men were killed in a fight with the Bundela Chhatarsal during the first quarter of the eighteenth century. There is also a large temple superintended by a *mahant*. The place to said to have been the residence of Raja Pandu mentioned in the *Mahabharata*.

RATH, *Pargana and Tahsil* RATH.

The headquarters of the tahsil is the largest town in the district. It lies on the unmetalled road from Hamirpur and Muskira to Jhansi, in latitude 25° 36′ and longitude 79° 34′, at a distance of 16 miles from Muskira and 50 miles from the town of Hamirpur. Other roads lead north to Chandaut and Kalpi, north-east to Jalalpur, south to Jaitpur and south-west to Panwari. There is a large military encamping-ground on the Hamirpur road nearly half a mile north-east of the town. Besides the tahsil, the town contains a first-class police station, post-office, branch dispensary, cattle-pound, road inspection bungalow, middle vernacular school and two good *sarais*. The old bazar, known as *Kot*, was erected by a tahsildar named Usman Khan about 1865. Markets are held on Sundays in each week in the Ganj, a large traffic in cattle being carried on.

The population of Rath, which in 1865 was returned at 17,690 persons, had fallen in 1872 to 14,515; the fall was partly due to an alteration in the limits of the town. At the last census, however, there was still a further decline, the total number of inhabitants being 11,424, of whom 5,576 were males and 5,848 females. Classified according to religion there were 8,413 Hindus, 3,005 Musalmans and six Parsis. The Musalmans are almost entirely the descendants of Hindu converts and in their customs and habits are more than half Hindus. Of the Hindus the most numerous castes are Banias, Koris and Chamars.

From 1869 to 1908 the town was administered under the provision of Act XX of 1856. With effect from 1st April

1908 it was converted into a notified area under Act I of 1900 Affairs within the town are managed by a committee consisting of a chairman, who is the tahsildar of Rath, and two nominated members. Income is derived from a tax assessed on persons carrying on a trade or practising a profession within the limits of the town, and is supplemented by three-fourths of the proceeds of the rental paid for *nazul* shops in the bazar and by other miscellaneous receipts. It amounts to some Rs. 3,000 yearly and is expended in the maintenance of a force of police, the employment of a staff of 19 sweepers and in works of improvement in the town.

Rath is the chief trading centre of the district and deals in grain, cotton and sugar. There are small industries in weaving, dyeing and saltpetre, but trade has been hampered by the use of the *Srinagari* rupee. The railway maintains an out-agency here, and the roads to Kulpahar and Hámirpur are being metalled. The project for a branch line of rail from Harpalpur station towards Hamirpur which would pass through Rath has at present been abandoned, but the improvements that have already been carried out in the means of communication should have the effect of reviving trade. There is a branch of the American mission in the town.

For the two years 1867 and 1868 Rath was a municipality, but as the imposition of octroi duties was found to affect its trade adversely the provisions of the Municipal Act were withdrawn. There are 19 *muhallas* in the town known as the *Diwan*, *Mian*, *Qazi*, *Mughul*, *Pathan*, *Malaud*, *Sikandar*, *Mirdhha*, *Maudhiya*, *Lodhan* and *Khushi Puras*; *Saiyidwara*, *Chaudhriwara*, *Julehti Kalan* and *Khurd*, *Gujarwara*, *Panwaria*, *Darwaza*, and *Jhagarua*. The name Rath is perhaps derived from the Rathor clan of Rajputs but it was re-founded by one Sharaf-ud-din, who called it after himself Sharafabad, about 1210 A. D. His descendant Saiyid Jiya Diwan gave his name to the Diwanpura *muhalla*; *Mianpura* is derived from Mian Khair-ullah whose descendants still reside there. The *Maudhiyapura* is called after some settlers who came here from Maudaha.

Rath possesses a fine large lake called the Sagar Tal, besides several smaller ones, adorned with extensive *ghats*. The two stone structures near the town, which are popularly known as Chandel *baithaks*, are now Musalman tombs, built of fragments

of Hindu or Jain temples, and in their present shape date from the fourteenth century. There are also the ruins of two forts built by the Rajas of Jaitpur and Charkhari about the second-half of the eighteenth century. One of the mosques in the town and a large well was built in the reign of Aurangzeb. Outside Rath on the west is the tomb of the *Bara Pir*, said to have been built by a native of Rath over a brick brought from Baghdad from the tomb of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani. A small fair is held on the fourteenth day of *Rabi-us-sani*; it is attended both by Hindus and Musalmans, but there is no trade. In the days of Akbar, Rath was the headquarters of a *mahal* in the *sarkar* of Kalpi, and over a hundred years later, when it was attacked by Chhatarsal, it is said to have contained many Saiyids; from this it may be inferred that it was always the centre of Muhammadan rule. The old *kot* where the *tahsili* now stands and where bricks of enormous size are still sometimes found, is claimed by the Parihar Rajputs of the Dhasan-side villages as one of their forts. During the Mutiny the tahsildar Hadi Ali and the *qanungo* Naubat Rai were killed here in an attack said to have been made by rebel *zamindars* of the surrounding villages.

RATH *Pargana, Tahsil* RATH.

Pargana Rath occupies the north-western corner of the Hamirpur district. The symmetry of its borders is destroyed to some extent by the intrusions of territory belonging to the independent states of Jigni, Sarila and Charkhari in the north-west, north-east and south-east, respectively; but apart from these it is roughly square in shape, except for two villages in the extreme north, which are almost enclosed by a bend of the Betwa river. The Dhasan and Betwa rivers form its western and northern boundaries, respectively, except where the Jigni state intervenes near the junction of those rivers: on the east is pargana Jalalpur and the Sarila state, and on the south lies tahsil Kulpahar and the Charkhari state: the latter state has three small islands of territory in the south-east of the pargana. The greatest length of the pargana from north to south is 28 miles and its greatest breadth is 21 miles: the total area is recorded as 245,471 acres, or 384 square miles.

The south-western part of the pargana, a square with its north-eastern corner lying on Rath town, forms a tableland situated over 100 feet higher than the highest point in the black soil parganas of the north and east of the district. This is well above the level of the *mar* soil deposit in the plain, and is composed entirely of even *parua* occasionally mixed with *kabar*. North of this lies an approximately equal expanse of *kabar*, with a varying admixture of *parua*, which gradually slopes down to the *mar* plain and is drained by the antennæ of the shallow *nalas* which further on unite to form the drainage channels of the northern portion of the pargana. This portion together with the eastern belt consists wholly of *mar* which is intersected by the Keolaha, Parwaha, and Baira *nalas*, all flowing in a north-easterly direction either into the Betwa or the Barma. Along the larger streams of the Betwa, Dhasan and Barma there are the usual line of ravines and eroded *rakar* soil. Over the whole pargana 13 per cent. of the cultivated area in 1907 was classified as *mar*, 37 per cent. as *kabar*, 36 per cent. as *parua*, 13 per cent. as *rakar* or *bhat*, and one per cent. as *kachhar* and *kachhiana*.

This description suffices to show that, while not altogether a homogeneous pargana, Rath is composed of well defined and well-distributed tracts containing all the main soils, a factor which contributes in no small measure to its stability. Cultivation during the 27 years preceding settlement averaged 153,552 acres or 63 per cent. of the total area, a very much higher proportion than is found in any other tahsil or pargana, the limits of the variation being 167,249 acres in 1881-82 and 141,331 acres in 1896-97. Of the remainder 44,029 acres, or 17·9 per cent., are recorded barren, and some 45,800 acres or 18 per cent. as culturable waste, including old and new fallow. The vast fluctuations in the areas devoted to the various crops in successive years make comparison at fixed periods fallacious, but normally it may be said that 56 per cent. of the cropped area is devoted to the *kharif* as against 44 per cent. sown in the *rabi*. This preponderance of autumn corps may suggest the conclusion that Rath is inferior to the northern parganas; but the reason for the difference is that Rath contains less black soil, which can be

cropped year after year with *rabi*, and that consequently a rotation between autumn and spring crops has to be adopted. At the same time Rath has a superiority in crops, for cotton and *til* cover nearly as large an acreage as *juar* and *bajra*, and the value of the former is about 70 per cent. higher than that of the latter. In the *rabi*, the staple crop is as usual gram; but the extent to which it is mixed with wheat is usually much greater than in the wholly black soil parganas, and both barley and linseed are grown to a larger extent. The area under sugarcane is more extensive than in any other pargana; and in the good *parua* villages of the south, where the water-bearing stratum is some 30 feet from the ground surface, there is a substantial amount of irrigation from earthen wells. The present irrigated area over the whole pargana averages just one per cent. of that cultivated, but it will greatly increase in the near future when the Dhasan canal is in working order. The double-cropped area is small, and not appreciably larger than in other parts of the district.

The population of Rath reached its zenith in 1881, when it numbered 105,509 persons; and although this number fell to 97,720 in 1901, it is the only pargana which had a population in excess of that of the previous settlement. The density is 254 persons per square mile, ranging from 324 in the *parua* to 124 in the ravine tracts, and is higher than that of any other pargana in the district. The system of cultivation is generally superior to that found elsewhere, and is attributable to the high proportion of Lodhi inhabitants. At the recent settlement in 1907 no less than 54 per cent. of the cultivated area was in the hands of that caste, 12 per cent. was tilled by Brahmans, but no other castes had more than 4 per cent. Of the total holdings area 61·47 per cent. was held by tenants as such, 34·07 per cent. (a high proportion) by proprietors themselves, and 4·46 per cent. was rent-free or nominally rented. The pargana contains 170 villages, at present divided into 273 *mahals*. Of the latter 46, representing 12 per cent. of the cultivated area, are held by single proprietors and 49, representing an equal proportion, in joint *zamindari*: 40 estates or 10 per cent. are owned in perfect, but 126, or 63 per cent., in imperfect *pattidari* tenure, and 3 are

bhaiyachara. The small estate of Malohan muafi alone is held revenue-free. As in the case of tenants, Lodhis are the chief proprietors, owing 41 per cent. of the total area. Rajputs come next with 28 per cent; and after them come Brahmans, 13 per cent; Marwaris, 8 per cent; and Banias, 5 per cent. There are only 17 individuals who pay over Rs. 500 in revenue apiece; and the biggest landholders are the Rajputs of Majhgawan and Malehta, of whom some account has been given is chapter III.

The town that gives its name to the pargana is probably the most important place in the district, and is certainly its largest market. There is a considerable number of large villages, 13 of which have weekly markets, and the most important of which are Gohand, Muskira Khurd, Aonta and Kuchhechha. The only metalled road at present in the pargana is the portion of the Rath-Hamirpur road which lies in it, running as far as the Barma river. A bridged road runs from Rath to Panwari, and fair unmetalled roads run to Chandaut on the way to Kalpi, Jaitpur, Kuchhechha and Jalalpur, while a branch takes off from Kumharia, a few miles north of Rath, and runs through the north-west corner of the pargana to Orai. The pargana cannot be said to be well off at present in the way of communications with large trade centres; but a considerable improvement will be effected if the projected and already surveyed branch line of rail is built from Sumerpur or Maudaha on the proposed Banda-Cawnpore Railway to Bela Tal station: this will pass through Rath. The pargana by itself does not form a separate subdivision for any purposes except that of settlement. The demands fixed at the various settlements will be found in the appendix:* in this connection it is important to note that at the recent revision the whole pargana was settled for 30 years, with the exception of 18 villages which were alone given the benefit of the fluctuating system under the special rules for Bundelkhand. Other information regarding the pargana will be found in the tahsil article.

RATH *Tahsil.*

Rath tahsil lies between 25° 28′ and 25° 56′ north latitude and 79° 21′ and 79° 55′ east longitude: it comprises parganas

* Appendix, table IX.

Jalalpur and Rath, and has a total area of 365,849 acres, or 574 square miles, being the largest tahsil in the district. It is bounded on the west and north by the Dhasan and Betwa rivers; on the east by the Barma, and on the south by tahsil Kulpahar and the Charkhari state. Its physical characteristics and chief features have been sufficiently indicated in the pargana articles. In its present shape the tahsil only exists from 1894, when Jalalpur tahsil was broken up and the portion lying west of the Barma river comprised in the pargana of Jalalpur was added to it. The united parganas contain 179 villages and one town. The population, which in 1891 numbered 126,920 persons, fell slightly to 125,731 in 1901; the latter figure gave a density of 219 persons to the square mile, the highest in the district; and of the whole, 63,439 were females. Classified according to religion there were 118,075 Hindus, 7,641 Musalmans, 7 Jains, 7 Aryas and one Sikh. Among Hindus, Lodhis are the most numerous caste, amounting to 24,030 souls, and after them come Chamars, 18,098; Brahmans, 9,543; Ahirs, 8,076; and Koris, 7,468. Other castes having over 2,000 representatives apiece were Basors, Kachhis, Rajputs, Banias, Gadariyas, Nais, Kumhars, Telis, Dhimars, Dhobis, Sonars, and Khangars; while the only important Rajput clan was that of Parihars. Among the Musalman inhabitants, Sheikhs predominate, followed by Behnas, Pathans and Saiyids. The tahsil is almost wholly agricultural in character, the vast majority of the inhabitants being dependent for their means of subsistence either directly on cultivation or on the trade in agricultural produce. The only local manufacture is that of country cloth; this explains the presence in the tahsil of a large number of Koris; but even this is a decaying industry, and besides the Koris the only non-agricultural population consists of the merchants, traders and Banias who carry on their calling in the town of Rath. The communications of the tahsil have already been described in the pargana articles; and a list of the schools, fairs, ferries, markets and post-offices of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

In the days of Akbar Rath formed a *mahal* or revenue subdivision in the *sarkar* of Kalpi. It always appears to

have been the chief Musalman stronghold in the district, and it passed to the British with the rest of British Bundelkhand in 1803. The tahsil now forms a criminal and revenue subdivision which is usually entrusted to a full-powered officer on the district staff. For purposes of police administration there are stations at Rath, Jalalpur, Jariya and Majhgawan, while some villages fall within the circles of Kurara, Lalpura and Bewar.

SAYAR, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A declining village in 25° 44′ N. and 80° 2′ E., on the road from Maudaha to Jalalpur, at a distance of nine miles from Maudaha and eighteen miles from Hamirpur. Its population has sunk from 2,606 persons in 1865 to 1,641 at the last census. The most numerous castes are Brahmans and Chamars. The place is a Bais settlement, founded by the same people who colonized Bidokhar. Close by the village there is a mud fort erected by Guman Singh, Raja of Banda. Sayar was destroyed by Ghani Bahadur in 1795, an event that is still remembered as the *Ghani-sai*. There is a village school here and a pound. A fair, known as the *Siddhon ka mela*, is held near the village on the full moon of *Kartik*. At the spot there is *chabutra* or platform, near which all who are desirous of offspring for themselves or their cattle dig a small square of earth. The fair lasts for one day only.

SISOLAR, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAUDAHA.

A village in 25° 39′ N. and 80° 16′ E. on the road from Hamirpur to Banda, at the point of junction with the road from Maudaha, distant ten miles from the latter and twenty-one miles from Hamirpur. It contains a police outpost, pound, post office and village school. Near the village on the east there is a military encamping-ground. There is a small bazar in which markets are held on Mondays and Fridays in each week. Sisolar had in 1865 a population of 2,787 persons : but this number at the last census in 1901 had dropped to 1,542, of whom 139 were Musalmans. The chief inhabitants are Dikhit Thakurs, whose rights were confiscated for bad behaviour during the Mutiny.

SRINAGAR, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHOBA.

A decayed and decaying town in 25° 10′ N. and 79° 47′ E. on the road from Mahoba to Chhatarpur, about three miles north of its junction with the road from Nowgong, ten miles from Mahoba and 65 miles from Hamirpur. There is a military encamping-ground here, close to the village on the east. Srinagar possesses a police station, pound, post-office and school; there is also a poor *sarai.* In the bazar markets are held on Mondays and Fridays weekly, but there is little trade, and what there is, is principally in grain. Formerly metalwork, chiefly consisting in the manufacture of brass idols and brass animals, was carried on here, but this, like the town, has declined. Up till April 1901 the place was administered under Act XX of 1856, but the operations of the Act were withdrawn owing to the decline in prosperity. The population, which in 1865 numbered 4,722 persons, had at the census of 1901 fallen to 2,690 persons, of whom 189 were Musalmans. Kachhis are the most numerous Hindu caste.

Srinagar was founded during the first quarter of the 18th century by Mohan Singh, an illegitimate son of the Bundela Raja Chhatarsal. It has six *muhallas*, named *Bazar*, *Bhairon*, *Banspahariapura*, *Manoharganj*, *Dubepura* and *Sonakpura.* Mohan Singh also built the fort, a stone building, the remains of which are to be seen on a hill overlooking part of the town. It was destroyed in 1858 by General Whitlock. There are also two fine tanks constructed by the founder, one of which, known as the Bara Tal, has an island in the middle on which are the ruins of an old Chandel temple. The descendants of Mohan Singh still hold the *zamindari* of Bamnaura in pargana Jaitpur. After the death of Mohan Singh Srinagar fell into the hands of the *subahdars* of Jalaun, who stationed an *amil* here and established a mint in the fort, whence *Srinagari* rupees were issued; these are still used in the south of the district and in the adjoining native states, and up to 1842 they were the currency in which the revenue assessments were calculated. The town flourished during the rule of the *subahdars*, but during the Mutiny it was sacked by the outlaw Despat and has never since recovered. On going through the town one is struck by

its desolate appearance. On every side are to be seen the ruins of fine houses, now altogether deserted or else partly inhabited by poor families who are unable to restore them. There are two temples, constructed in the time of the Jalaun *subahdars*, namely, the temple of Bhairon Nath, for the maintenance of which the revenue of Atrar *muaf* in tahsil Mahoba is assigned, and that of Sri Ramchandra, which is supported by the Gwalior darbar.

SUMERPUR, *Pargana* SUMERPUR, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR,

The capital of the pargana lies on the metalled road from Hamirpur to Mahoba, at a distance of ten miles from the former and 47 miles from Mahoba, in 25° 50′ N. and 80° 10′ E. A second-class road runs south to Banda, and a similar road north to Pataura onthe Jumna. There is a military encamping-ground here near the police station to the north-west of the village. The town has four subdivisions or *Thoks*, known as *Garhgaj*, *Uncha*, *Chand* and *Imilia*. The last is of recent origin, having been formed out of Garhgaj and named after a grove of tamarind trees. The main road runs through Garhgaj, Chand and Uncha, and on each side of it is the bazar. Markets are held twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The chief articles of trade are grain and cattle, the cattle market being the largest in the district. The only industry of the place is dyeing, which is carried on to some small extent. Besides the police station there is a post-office, cattle-pound and middle vernacular school. The camping-ground is not a good one: the ground, being black cotton soil, is full of holes and cracks, and it is insufficiently shaded by a few *mahua* trees. Close by there is a very small road inspection bungalow which has recently been constructed. The population of Sumerpur at the last census numbered 4,039 persons, of whom 294 were Musalmans. Chamars form the bulk of the Hindu population. There has been a considerable decrease of late years, for in 1865 the number of inhabitants was 6,360 persons.

The place has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since 1893. The average income, derived for the most part

from the house-tax, amounts to some Rs. 1,000 annually. The police force consists of seven men of all grades supported at a yearly cost of Rs. 456. For conservancy purposes a staff of eight sweepers is maintained.

The town is of some antiquity, as is proved by the brick-strewn mounds that are found everywhere. In the immediate neighbourhood of the town there are three old *kheras* known as Lakhanpur, Mirzapur and Itara, in which glass bangles and earthenware remains and occasionally coins are found. It is said to derive its name from one Sumer, a Khangar, but nothing is known of him; Mirzapur is said to have been a Khangar village and was possible founded by this person. The vanished town of Lakhanpur is said to have been burnt down by Nawab Muhammad Khan of Farrukhabad. Outside the town are the ruins of two forts, one of which is said to have been built by the Nawab and the other in more recent times by Khuman Singh, Raja of Charkhari, about the middle of the eighteenth century.

The town is mentioned in the *Chandraisa* as one of the *thanas* established by Prithviraj on the occasion of his attack on Mahoba about 1180 A. D. The oldest building in the town is a temple built by Gosains, but even this has little appearance of antiquity. The *zamindars* are chiefly Rajputs, but there are a few Brahmans; the former have rather a bad reputation and caused considerable trouble during the Mutiny. Another name for the town is Barka, which is explained by the story that in the time of Khuman Singh and Guman Singh the *zamindars* had to bear the burden *(bar)* of collecting the revenues of the *pargana*.

SUMERPUR *Pargana*, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

Sumerpur is the southern pargana of the Sadr or Hamirpur tahsil; it is separated from pargana Hamirpur by the Betwa river. On the north flows the Jumna; on the east lies tahsil Pailani of the Banda district, and on the south and east it is bounded by parganas Maudaha and Muskira of the Maudaha tahsil. The total area is returned at 155,202 acres, or 243 square miles.

The pargana is a typical black soil plain, the level of which has been broken along an old bed of the Betwa, and along the courses of the Karora and its tributary the Larhar *nala*. The former runs east from Paunthia as far as Kamraura, where it turns north, joining the present bed of the Betwa three or four miles before its junction with the Jumna. The area enclosed between the old and present river beds is 17 or 18 square miles. This tract reaches the level of the original *mar* plain in the centre and gradually slopes away to the river level on all sides except in the south-west towards Paunthia. At Paunthia the river bank is high and the old bed of the river forms only a narrow channel through it, so that the *mar* plain is almost continuous with the central *mar* plain of the pargana. A belt of ravines runs along the right bank of the Betwa as far as Paunthia and then follows the old course of the river, to continue in turn along the right bank of the Jumna. This belt is narrow as far as Kandaura, and then gradually widens out; but in no part does it attain the same dimensions as the ravine belt in pargana Hamirpur, nor are there any individual villages which do not extend into the *mar* plain on one side or the other. The Karora *nala* is formed by the junction of several small streams rising near the south-west of the pargana. It flows east through the town of Sumerpur, and then bends southwards, joining the Chandrawal in the south-east. About 5 miles south-east of Sumerpur it is joined by the Larhar which flows in a north-easterly direction from the centre of the southern border. The soil in the neighbourhood of these rivers, the *nalas* and another smaller watercourse which flows though the villages of Terha and Isauli, is undulating, broken and poor: but with this exception the pargana is remarkable for the homogeneity of its soils and physical characteristics, and the other drainage channels of the tract, namely the Chandrawal, the Mehla and the Kulharia, have no appreciable effect on it. At the recent settlement 22 per cent. of the cultivated area was classed as ***mar***, 38 per cent. as *kabar*, 21 per cent. as *parua*, 17 per cent. as *rakar* or ***bhat*** and 2 per cent. as garden or alluvial land.

Of the total area 18,094 acres, or 11·6 per cent., are returned as barren waste, and some 66,000 acres or 42 per cent. as

culturable, including old and new fallow. The cultivated area has varied between extremes as high as 103,327 acres in 1879-80 and 52,477 acres in the year 1897-98, but some 80,000 acres may normally be taken as the average under the plough. Both the double-cropped and the irrigated area are almost negligible, owing to the great depth of the water in the wells and the absence of good tanks; and the cropped area is normally almost equally divided between the two harvests, there being a slight preponderance in favour of the *rabi*. *Juar*, alone or in combination, occupies an overwhelming proportion of the *kharif*, while gram and wheat intermixed or gram alone practically account for the whole area sown with *rabi*. The other corps grown are chiefly cotton and *til* in the autumn, and barley and gram intermixed in the spring. The cultivation is generally of a low order; nor can good husbandry be looked for from a body of tenants which contains so large a proportion of the high castes. Kurmis only hold 2 per cent. of the cultivated area; while Rajputs have 29 per cent. and Brahmans 11 per cent., the other best represented castes being Chamars, with 10 per cent., and Kewats, with 6 per cent. Kumhars, Ahirs, Kachhis, Arakhs and Gadarias hold some 20 per cent. between them. At the recent settlement 63·89 per cent. of the holdings area was in the hands of tenants, and 30·68 per cent. in those of the proprietors themselves, 5·43 per cent. being rent-free or nominally rented. The pargana contains 94 villages at present divided into 275 *mahals*. Of the latter 24, representing 6·1 per cent. of the cultivated area, are owned by single proprietors; 73 or 20·4 per cent. are held in joint *zamindari*; 50 or 11·5 per cent. in perfect, 39 or 19·4 per cent. in imperfect *pattidari* tenure; while no less than 89 or 42·6 per cent. are *bhaiyachara*. Of the total area Rajputs own 45·5 per cent. and Brahmans 22·3 per cent., while after them come Marwaris, Musalmans and Kayasths: only 3·1 per cent. is in the hands of Kurmis. The largest landed proprietors are the Dubes of Khandeh in Banda, who are now impoverished.

The total population of the pargana in 1901 amounted to 43,711 persons, representing a decrease of 16 per cent. both since 1878 and 1891, when the number of inhabitants was very nearly equal. The density only comes to 180 persons per square

mile, and is small especially in the *kabar* tracts, where the villages, particularly those of Ingotha, Surauli Buzurg, Terha, Sumerpur, Bidokhar and Chhani, are large and unwieldy. Only in the portion of the pargana north of the old bed of the Betwa is the population sufficient and well-distributed. The only town in the tract is that of Sumerpur itself; and practically the whole population is devoted to agriculture.

Except for settlement purposes, the pargana does not form a distinct subdivision: it is combined with pargana Hamirpur to form the tahsil of that name, and the whole tract is usually in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. In the appendix* will be found the revenue demands at successive settlements, together with that recently assessed. In the matter of communications the pargana is fairly well off. The metalled road from Hamirpur to Kabrai runs through the chief town Sumerpur and traverses the pargana. Unmetalled roads lead from Hamirpur through Chhani to Muskira, and from Sumerpur through Mundera to Banda and through Deogaon to the Jumna ferry at Pataura: these are supplemented by the usual village cart tracks. If it is ever built the contemplated railway from Cawnpore to Banda, with its branch from Sumerpur to Rath and either Harpalpur or Jaitpur, will prove of very great advantage to the pargana. Other statistics relating to the pargana will be found in the tahsil article and a list of the schools, ferries, post-offices, fairs and markets is given in the appendix.

SUNGRA, *Pargana* PANWARI JAITPUR, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR.

A small town in 25°20′ N. and 79°38′ E. on the road from Mahoba to Panwari, at a distance of three miles west from Kulpahar and sixty miles from Hamirpur. It is commonly known as Kunwarpur, so called after Kunwar Rai Singh, a Panwar Rajput who settled here about the middle of the 18th century. The name Sungra is said to be derived from a *sungar* or wild boar, which infested the rocks in the vicinity and rendered the place uninhabitable. The fort was built by the Jaitpur Rajas. It stands on a height and commands a beautiful view. In it there is a large masonry well or *baoli*. Of the Panwar family Noni

* Appendix, tables IX and X.

Arjun Singh distingnished himself in the service of Guman Singh of Banda, and acquired much territory for his master. Arjun Singh was himself killed in 1785 in an action with Ali Bahadur. His descendant, Mahipat Singh, was hanged after the Mutiny, and since then the family has become greatly reduced.

The headquarters of the tahsil now called Kulpahar were removed from Panwari to Kulpahar in 1857, and in the following year to Sungra, where they remained till 1871, when they were again removed to Kulpahar. The population, which in 1865 numbered 4,103 persons, had fallen in 1901 to only 1,798 persons, of whom 96 were Musalmans. The village contains a school, and market is held every Sunday: its prosperity has somewhat revived since the introduction of the railway.

SUPA, *Pargana* PANWARI-JAITPUR, *Tahsil* KULPAHAR.

A small town lying in 25°20′ N. and 79°46′ E. on the banks of the Arjun stream, on the road from Srinagar to Charkhari, at a distance of ten miles from Kulpahar and fifty-five miles from Hamirpur. It belongs to Lodhi *zamindars,* who claim to have received it from Prithviraj of Dehli when he advanced against Mahoba. Another tradition regarding the place is that Raja Prithviraj when on his way to attack Mahoba held his camp at Supa and vanquished the Gonds, who had built the fort and were then in occupation of the place. There is a ruined fort here, built by the Panwar, Arjun Singh of Sungra, at the beginning of the eighteenth century. It was dismantled by the British in 1805. A school is established here and there is a bazar in which a market is held on Tuesdays; the chief trade is in cotton. The population, which in 1865 amounted to 4,675, had fallen in 1901 to 4,001 persons, of whom 697 were Musalmans.

The place was the scene of a battle between Muhammad Khan Bangash and the Bundelas in 1727 A. D., and again between Pahar Singh Raja of Jaitpur and his nephews Guman Singh and Khuman Singh. It gave its name to a small pargana under the Bundelas, and was for a short time occupied by a detachment of British troops. Some two miles south of the town is a station of the same name on the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great

Indian Peninsula railway. It is important as the nearest station to the large mart of Charkhari, and the trade of the place has to some extent revived.

SURAULI BUZURG, *Pargana* SUMERPUR, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

A large village in 25°53′ N. and 80°18′E. on the banks of the Jumna, which is here crossed by a ferry leading to the Fatehpur district, at a distance of about ten miles from Hamirpur. It belongs to Gaur Rajputs who have rather a bad reputation. During the Mutiny they gained possession of one or two guns, and with their aid levied blackmail on all boats passing down the Jumna. By way of punishment the village was taken away from the ancestral proprietors and given in farm to on outsider for fourteen years; it was subsequently restored to the old proprietors. A cart-track leads from the village to Sumerpur. The population has declined from 2,521 in 1865 to a total of 1,925 inhabitants at the census of 1901. Of these 1,882 were Hindus and 43 Musalmans.

TERHA, *Pargana* SUMERPUR, *Tahsil* HAMIRPUR.

A village in 20° 50′ N. and 80° 17′ E. on the Banda border, about seven miles east of Sumerpur and twelve miles south-east from the district headquarters. It belongs to Rajputs of the Gaharwar clan. The place has greatly declined. In 1872 it had a population of 2,839 persons, but in 1901 the total had sunk to 1,768, of whom 33 were Musalmans. The village contains a school.

Gazetteer of Hamirpur.

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER

OF

HAMIRPUR.

APPENDIX.

CONTENTS.

TABLE I.—*Population by Tahsils*, 1901.

Tahsil.	Total.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	13
Hamirpur	71,625	36,723	34,902	67,421	34,597	32,824	4,182	2,111	2,071	22	15	7
Rath	125,731	62,292	63,439	118,075	58,746	59,329	7,641	3,537	4,104	15	9	6
Kulpahar	111,926	56,330	55,596	106,501	53,667	52,834	5,367	2,631	2,736	58	32	26
Mahoba	61,938	31,071	30,867	57,627	29,008	28,619	4,048	2,025	2,023	263	38	225
Maudaha	87,322	43,788	43,534	78,493	39,659	38,834	8,819	4,125	4,694	10	4	6
District Total ...	458,542	230,204	228,338	428,117	215,677	212,440	30,057	14,429	15,628	368	98	270

TABLE II.—*Population by Thanas*, 1901.

District.	Serial number of Thana.	Name of Thana.	Total population.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
			Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Hamirpur.	1	Sumerpur ...	28,321	14,458	13,863	27,222	13,904	13,318	1,096	551	545	3	3	...
	2	Hamirpur ...	21,168	10,977	10,191	19.072	9,922	9,150	2,077	1,043	1,034	19	12	7
	3	Lalpura ...	11,199	5,703	5,496	10,569	5,372	5,197	630	331	299	...	...	...
	4	Kurara ...	12,514	6,403	6,111	12,119	6,212	5,907	395	191	204	...	...	...
	5	Chandaut ...	10,683	5,446	5,237	10,387	5,303	5,084	295	142	153	1	1	...
	6	Jariya ...	26,909	13,284	13,625	25,839	12,757	13,082	1,070	527	543	...	...	...
	7	Muskira ...	26,792	13,543	13,249	25,563	12,951	12,612	1,227	592	635	2	...	2
	8	Jalalpur ...	11,286	5,703	5,583	10,550	5,350	5,200	736	353	383	...	...	...
	9	Rath ...	52,847	26,013	26,834	48,203	23,916	24,287	4,637	2,093	2,544	7	4	3
	10	Majhgawan ...	15,836	7,786	8,050	15,190	7,462	7,728	639	320	319	7	4	3
	11	Kharela ...	10,749	5,412	5,337	10,359	5,205	5,154	388	205	183	2	2	...
	12	Ajnar ...	32,094	16,132	15,962	31,436	15,784	15,652	624	330	294	34	18	16
	13	Kulpahar ...	32,918	16,687	16,231	30,426	15,471	14,955	2,479	1,208	1,271	13	8	5
	14	Srinagar ...	20,122	10,268	9,854	19,618	10,018	9,600	493	244	249	11	6	5
	15	Kashipur ...	11.897	5,986	5,911	11,480	5,773	5,707	417	213	204	...	...	...
	16	Mahoba ...	28,363	14,083	14,280	25,008	12,506	12,502	3,092	1,539	1,553	263	38	225
	17	Panwari ...	29,073	14,466	14,607	27,300	13.673	13,627	1,773	793	980	...	...	...
	18	Maudaha ...	33,364	16,431	16,933	26,720	13,366	13,354	6,644	3,065	3,579	...	...	...
	19	Kabrai ...	14,771	7,402	7,369	14,367	7,184	7,183	404	218	186	...	...	...
	20	Sisolar ...	16,329	8,300	8,029	15,792	8,036	7,756	531	262	269	6	2	4
	21	Bewar ...	11,307	5,721	5,586	10,897	5,512	5,385	410	209	201	...	...	...
		Total ...	458,542	230,204	228,338	428,117	215,677	212,440	30,057	14,429	15,628	368	98	270

TABLE III.—*Vital Statistics.*

Year.	Births.				Deaths.			
	Total.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1,000.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1,000.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1891 ...	17,644	9,213	8,431	34·34	22,252	12,167	10,085	43·32
1892 ...	22,193	11,536	10,657	43·20	19,626	10,639	8,987	38·20
1893 ...	22,458	11,764	10,694	43·72	12,329	6,717	5,612	24·00
1894 ...	22,814	11,790	11,024	44·41	20,718	10,785	9,933	40·32
1895 ...	15,580	8,119	7,461	30·33	21,007	11,292	9,715	40·89
1896 ...	15,166	7,786	7,380	29·52	27,070	14,940	12,130	52·69
1897 ...	10,015	5,205	4,810	19·49	31,887	16,929	14,958	62·07
1898 ...	15,128	7,707	7,421	29·45	12,994	6,860	6,134	25·29
1899 ...	23,866	12,292	11,574	46·46	12,387	6,485	5,902	24·11
1900 ...	17,426	9,033	8,393	33·92	12,329	6,376	5,953	24·00*
1901 ...	19,200	9,837	9,363	41·87	14,173	7,279	6,894	30·91
1902 ...	26,022	13,236	12,786	56·74	17,020	8,757	8,263	37·12
1903 ...	23,510	12,169	11,341	51·27	25,631	13,241	12,390	55·90
1904 ...	27,840	14,434	13,406	60·71	13,810	7,145	6,665	30·12
1905 ...	22,417	11,525	10,892	48·88	13,639	6,988	6,651	29·74
1906 ...	14,435	7,548	6,887	31·48	29,900	15,547	14,353	65·21
1907 ...	17,433	9,011	8,422	38·01	22,219	11,444	10,775	48·45
1908 ...								
1909 ...								
1910 ...								
1911 ...								
1912 ...								
1913 ...								
1914 ...								

* The rates from 1891 to 1900 are calculated from the returns of the 1891 census.

TABLE IV.—*Deaths according to cause.*

Year.	Total deaths from					
	All causes.	Plague.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel complaints.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1891	22,252	...	1,837	30	14,890	1,730
1892	19,626	...	849	5	14,039	1,152
1893	12,329	...	1	11	8,750	501
1894	20,718	...	413	6	14,340	1,028
1895	21,007	...	3,883	9	12,771	917
1896	27,070	...	1,528	93	20,827	1,268
1897	31,887	...	1,472	104	24,714	1,840
1898	12,994	...	...	1	10,267	204
1899	12,387	...	...	4	8,385	192
1900	12,329	...	...	1	8,885	150
1901	14,173	...	...	1	9,801	257
1902	17,020	3	71	72	10,368	458
1903	25,631	6	667	299	15,135	679
1904	13,810	36	3	5	8,259	290
1905	13,639	160	...	7	8,551	201
1906	29,900	...	4,593	36	19,326	636
1907	22,219	6	...	13	16,769	316
1908						
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						
1913						
1914						

Table V.—*Statistics of cultivation and irrigation*, 1315 *Fasli*.

Pargana and tahsil.	Total area.	Waste.	Culturable.	Cultivated.							Double-cropped.
				Irrigated.					Dry.	Total.	
				Total.	Canals.	Wells.	Tanks.	Other sources.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Hamirpur ...	84,821	24,580	35,125	434	293	63	...	78	24,682	25,116	139
Sumerpur ...	155,484	18,315	79,976	371	...	295	...	76	56,822	57,193	600
Tahsil Hamirpur ...	240,305	42,895	115,101	805	293	358	...	154	81,504	82,309	739
Rath	246,308	48,672	112,393	44,32	...	4,055	360	17	80,811	85,243	1,213
Jalalpur ...	120,737	37,918	47,462	390	...	342	7	41	34,967	35,357	233
Tahsil Rath ...	367,045	86,590	159,855	4,822	...	4,397	367	58	115,778	120,600	1,446
Kulpahar ...	357,879	53,869	182,976	14,040	1,289	11,740	935	76	106,994	121,034	5,060
Mahoba ...	210,957	22,422	117,132	5,812	1,962	3,253	424	173	65,591	71,403	2 379
Maudaha ...	148,917	13,106	84,316	456	...	405	...	51	51,039	51,495	469
Muskira ...	142,004	21,270	76,037	1,313	...	1,260	...	53	43,384	44,697	566
Total Maudaha ...	290,921	34,376	160,353	1,769	...	1,665	...	104	94,423	96,192	1 035
Total ...	1,467,107	240,152	735,417	27,248	3,544	21.413	1,726	565	464,290	491,538	10,659

TABLE VI.—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Hamirpur.*

Year.	Rabi.						Kharif.				
	Total.	Gram.	Gram and barley mixed.	Wheat	Wheat and gram mixed.	Linseed	Total.	Juar and arhar.	Bajra and arhar.	Til.	Cotton and arhar.
Fasli.											
1305	41,593	35,538	1,554	614	2,606	622	41,635	23,198	6,386	637	7,321
1306	39,971	30,253	1,637	459	6,459	469	51,821	63,761	6,216	682	8,081
1307	47,594	32,349	1,667	469	11,832	553	41,165	24,445	5,976	1,144	7,057
1308	47,232	25,615	3,013	954	15,428	1,567	54,149	35,344	6,668	1,853	7,755
1309	60,771	44,921	3,463	585	10,636	388	48,367	27,399	5,528	3,100	10,196
1310	58,398	39,737	3,319	881	11,813	1,951	61,273	36,653	4,975	4,236	12,639
1311	*	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...
1312	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1313	*	...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1314	61,158	44,116	1,817	903	12,542	753	...	...	...	...	...
1315	*	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1316											
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											

* Figures not available ...

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Rath.*

Year.	Rabi.						Kharif.							
	Total.	Gram.	Gram and barley mixed.	Wheat.	Wheat and gram mixed.	Linseed.	Total.	Juar and arhar.	Bajra and arhar.	Til.	Cotton.	Kodon.	Sawan.	Rice of both kinds.
Fasli.														
1305 ...	77,915	64,040	3,320	195	5,466	4,454	116,191	50,849	20,102	6,143	22,605	3,399	7,710	1,829
1306 ...	82,295	58,848	4,142	185	12,050	6,534	115,427	54,983	16,987	7,277	23,065	4,497	4,449	2,176
1307 ...	82,702	53,576	3,059	223	19,370	5,776	109,441	37,469	18,822	18,766	25,047	2,527	3,069	1,537
1308 ...	68,567	34,001	4,788	367	22,558	6,191	135,778	59,008	20,849	18,437	27,016	2,005	4,829	1,516
1309 ...	95,583	70,996	6,330	307	11,757	5,470	121,333	45,759	16,748	18,808	30,062	3,295	3,479	1,580
1310 ...	77,133	39,808	4,954	664	17,666	13,310	138,369	51,393	16,588	30,272	31,814	2,000	3,258	1,335
1311 ...	58,998	22,946	11,966	289	35,653	14,515	133,379	48,859	18,953	34,429	25,221	2,527	1,227	639
1312 ...	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1313 ...	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1314 ...	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1315 ...	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1316 ...														
1317 ...														
1318 ...														
1319 ...														
1320 ...														

* Figures not available owing to survey and settlement operations.

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Kulpahar.*

Year.	Rabi.							Kharif.							
	Total.	Gram.	Gram and barley mixed.	Wheat.	Wheat and gram mixed.	Linseed.	Barley.	Total.	Juar and arhar.	Bajra and arhar.	Til.	Cotton.	Kodon.	Rice of both kinds.
Fasli.														
1305 ...	39,420	24,266	8,548	2,029	1,274	2,660	6,874	106,867	54,584	3,440	11,281	15,089	16,989	1,017
1306 ...	49,306	30,630	8,644	2,904	2,359	3,936	6,427	104,615	52,431	2,409	12,101	16,691	4,494	1,175
1307 ...	52,860	27,391	8,035	3,139	6,913	5,835	6,361	94,874	38,514	2,703	21,171	13,537	2,979	1,093
1308 ...	45,088	21,932	7,888	3,323	7,851	3,194	6,404	115,196	52,080	2,585	22,422	15,605	16,241	1,183
1309 ...	57,341	35,882	9,395	3,012	3,082	4,994	5,933	115,413	49,979	1,738	23,304	16,597	16,974	945
1310 ...	52,292	27,767	7,337	3,513	4,369	8,293	5,636	119,020	50,097	1,125	33,155	14,701	14,181	962
1311 ...	52,314	18,718	9,636	3,828	9,941	9,195	5,908	120,856	54,731	1,741	38,710	10,568	11,102	527
1312 ...	74,407	31,296	2,309	4,692	18,302	10,080	7,728	64,309	18,515	1,314	21,498	10,096	14,200	698
1313 ...	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1314 ...	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...
1315 ...	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1316 ...														
1317 ...														
1318 ...														
1319 ...														
1320 ...														

* Figures not available owing to survey and settlement operations.

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Mahoba.*

Year.	Rabi.							Kharif.						
	Total.	Gram.	Gram and barley mixed.	Wheat.	Wheat and gram mixed.	Linseed.	Barley	Total.	Juar and arhar.	Bajra and arhar.	Til.	Cotton.	Kodon.	Rice of both kinds.
Fasli.														
1305 ...	8,657	3,328	3,165	263	820	831	2,776	51,091	23,273	466	6,387	8,730	10,620	721
1306 ..	28,430	18,532	3,757	583	2,730	2,340	2,875	50,454	22,181	340	6,683	8,759	10,585	725
1307 ...	29,034	15,264	3,612	1,727	4,645	3,176	2,824	44,303	14,993	439	11,118	7,289	8,294	675
1308 ...	24,082	9,410	3,537	1,300	6,667	2,617	2,739	55,178	22,794	261	11,205	8,372	10,117	718
1309 ...	28,047	17,333	3,322	998	2,680	3,118	2,473	56,341	21,229	224	12,326	9,795	10,355	633
1310 ...	25,280	14,526	2,107	1,129	2,542	4,334	1,885	60,260	21,922	83	17,339	9,359	9,544	541
1311	25,748	9,863	2,852	882	6,786	4,818	2,120	64,902	26,191	231	20,915	7,859	8,248	243
1312 ...	40,416	16,014	686	1,254	12,154	7,405	2,903	37,495	11,855	121	11,237	6,164	8,239	321
1313* ...														
1314* ...														
1315 ...														
1316 ...														
1317 ...														
1318 ...														
1319 ..														
1320 ...														

* Figures not available owing to survey and settlement operations.

TABLE VI—(concluded).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Maudaha.*

Year.	Rabi.						Kharif.					
	Total.	Gram.	Gram and barley mixed.	Wheat.	Wheat and gram mixed.	Linseed.	Total.	Juar and arhar.	Bajra and arhar.	Til.	Cotton.	Kodon.
Fasli.												
1305	66,370	58,818	1,457	41	2,578	2,615	51,874	27,806	6,707	2,363	9,103	2,853
1306	63,173	46,720	1,552	213	10,281	3,582	64,946	39,419	6,149	3,041	10,290	2,410
1307	70,367	44,475	2,193	584	17,787	4,123	52,353	25,301	7,180	5,335	9,902	2,921
1308	62,475	28,808	2,110	207	24,483	5,740	73,272	42,280	6,723	4,463	11,608	3,111
1309	74,544	60,280	2,211	106	7,362	3,340	71,180	35,976	5,491	9,648	14,093	4,203
1310	69,355	44,279	1,559	90	12,972	9,394	80,584	40,446	4,998	1,478	15,744	3,599
1311	33,093	10,837	2,384	169	13,245	5,893	44,905	21,115	5,600	8,084	7,229	1,679
1312*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1313*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1314	45,333	33,442	426	141	8,177	2,335	...	...	...	...	...	...
1315												
1316												
1317												
1318												
1319												
1320												

* Figures not available owing to survey and settlement operations.

Table VII.—*Criminal Justice.*

Year.		Number of persons convicted or bound over in respect of—												Cases under—	
		Offences against public tranquillity (chapter VIII).	Offences affecting life.	Grievous hurt.	Rape.	Cattle theft.	Criminal force and assault.	Theft.	Robbery and dakaiti.	Receiving stolen property.	Criminal trespass.	Bad livelihood.	Keeping the peace.	Opium Act.	Excise Act.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1896	...	20	47	24	3	64	24	597	28	271	409	19	16	1	3
1897	...	11	53	25	...	97	16	762	18	354	522	61	3	1	6
1898	...	...	32	15	2	18	23	200	19	106	117	10	27	1	5
1899	...	29	18	6	...	18	20	135	4	77	141	53	6	2	15
1900	...	40	30	20	...	26	15	214	2	121	181	44	30	2	63
1901	...	14	10	17	1	24	29	131	3	58	103	30	51	5	78
1902	...	9	31	14	...	5	24	124	3	58	71	23	106	9	68
1903	...	40	41	14	3	9	31	166	3	47	114	29	41	3	39
1904	...	22	69	25	4	12	44	167	4	45	93	35	65	23	62
1905	...	63	28	22	1	50	27	163	16	65	171	38	50	8	73
1906	...	24	22	9	2	60	23	170	27	80	258	23	27	6	19
1907	...	60	20	26	3	14	10	56	18	22	51	16	57	3	17
1908	...	25	24	13	1	47	11	121	10	41	123	6	22	3	14
1909	...														
1910	...														
1911	...														
1912	...														
1913	...														

TABLE VIII.—*Cognizable crime.*

Year.	Number of cases investigated by police.			Number of persons.		
	Suo motu.	By orders of Magistrate.	Sent up for trial.	Tried.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1891	1,600	...	1,151	1,408	188	1,220
1892	1,279	...	891	1,119	200	919
1893	1,250	2	843	1,057	239	818
1894	1,262	12	835	1,048	234	814
1895	1,782	42	1,257	1,544	315	1,2[illegible]9
1896	2,159	42	1,588	1,875	277	1,5[illegible]8
1897	2,172	25	1,723	2,260	343	1,917
1898	850	38	567	758	152	606
1899	871	43	582	756	174	582
1900	1,110	25	797	1,010	173	837
1901	757	23	515	692	131	561
1902	871	28	584	791	206	585
1903	952	20	628	851	135	696
1904	1,012	23	663	840	126	714
1905	1,266	36	856	1,060	140	920
1906	1,136	35	774	1,208	271	937
1907	686	37	417	744	243	501
1908	832	18	507	707	148	559
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						

Table IX.—*Revenue demand at successive settlements.*

Pargana.		Years of settlement.								
		Mr. Erskine, 1807.	Mr. Wauchope, 1810.	Mr. Waring, 1816.	Mr. Valpy, 1821.	Mr. Valpy, 1826.	Mr. Ainslie, 1831.	Mr. Pidcock, 1836.	Messrs. Allen and Muir, 1842.	Mr. Neale, 1879.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hamirpur ...	... ...	77,437	85,798	1,10,436	1,03,781	94,120	79,506	77,600	71,433	74,020
Sumerpur ...	... ...	1,56,383	1,68,897	2,62,154	174,220*		1,66,929	1,63,669	1,40,348	1,41,360
Maudaha ...	... ...	1,39,941	1,38,502	2,06,128	152,441*		1,51,538	1,47,201	1,37,969	1,22,859
Muskira ...	... ...	2,60,452	3,06,179	4,01,135	3,90,412	3,76,299	2,92,690	2,75,800	2,51,143	1,22,590
Jalalpur ...	... ...									63,270
Rath† ...	... ...	2,01,667	2,59,131	3,19,471	270,614*		2,67,882	2,59,047	1,82,464	2,17,720
Kulpahar ...	Panwari ...	1,07,433	1,50,264	1,90,097	185,530*		2,14,962	2,11,369	11,82,464	2,15,800
	Jaitpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	§40,756	‖34,295	
Mahoba ...	... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	¶67,369	‡1,10,202

* Separate figures not available: represents highest demand.
† Including the small pargana of Kharka absorbed in Rath.
‡ Includes now a portion of the old pargana of Jalalpur Kharela.
§ Settled by Major Erskine, 1853.
‖ Settled by Mr. Ingram in 1864.
¶ Settled by Mr. Freeling in 1856.

TABLE X.—*Demand at settlement and subsequent revisions.*

Pargana and tahsil.	Where included in *Ain-i-Akbari*.	Revenue fixed at settlement. 1905-08.	Cesses.	Total.	Incidence per acre—		First revision.	Second revision.	Third revision.	Fourth revision.	Fifth revision.
					Cultivated.	Total.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	As. p.					
Hamirpur ...	Hamirpur ...	52,522	5,252	57,774	2·30	10 10					
Sumerpur ...	Maudaha ...	90,457	9,045	99,502	1·74	10 3					
Tahsil Hamirpur	.. ...	1,42,979	14,297	1,57,276	1·91	10 6					
Jalalpur ...	Khandaut ...	54,988	5,498	60,486	1·71	8 0					
Rath ...	Rath ...	2,20,037	22,003	2,42,040	2·84	15 9					
Tahsil Rath ...	... ...	2,75,025	27,501	3,02,526	2·50	13 2					
Kulpahar ...	Rath ...	1,71,445	17,574	1,89,019	1·56	8 6					
Mahoba ...	{ Kharela ... Mahoba .. }	77,292	8,046	85,338	1·19	6 6					
Maudaha ...	Maudaha ...	86,585	8,691	95,276	1·85	10 3					
Muskira ...	Khandela ...	90,701	9,070	99,771	2·23	11 3					
Tahsil Maudaha	.. ...	1,77,286	17,761	1,95,047	2·03	10 9					
Total ...	......	8,44,027	85,179	9,29,206	1·89	10 2					

Table XI.—*Excise.*

Year.	Receipts from foreign liquors.	Country spirit.		Receipts from *tari* and *sendhi*.	Drugs.			Opium.		Total receipts.	Total charges.	Incidence of receipts per 10,000 of population from—			Number of shops for sale of—		
		Receipts.	Consumption in gallons.		Total receipts.	Consumption in maunds of— *Ganja.*	Consumption in maunds of— *Charas.*	Total receipts.	Consumption.			Liquor, including *tari*.	Drugs.	Opium.	Country spirits.	Drugs.	Opium.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Mds. s.	Mds. s.	Rs.	Mds. s.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
1890-91 ...	...	11,740	...	...	3,668	Not available.		13,834	32 30	29,243	1,554	229	71	269	137	56	19
1891-92 ...	...	12,834	...	...	3,306	Ditto.		14,971	36 0	31,111	1,728	250	64	291	137	56	19
1892-93 ...	...	14,650	...	...	3,333	136 33	0 15	15,339	38 1	34,436	1,381	285	65	320	120	57	19
1893-94 ...	...	19,104	...	...	3,137	98 21	0 26	14,895	30 28	37,136	795	371	61	290	117	57	20
1894-95 ...	...	17,861	...	...	3,242	78 13	0 28	11,685	23 27	32,788	453	348	63	227	117	59	19
1895-96 ...	...	9,877	...	...	2,110	151 39	0 32	9,594	22 5	21,580	29	192	41	187	117	61	19
1896-97 ...	...	3,574	...	...	762	16 14	4 31	8,362	20 9	12,697	38	69	15	163	115	57	19
1897-98 ...	...	8,546	...	...	950	11 29	3 19	7,801	18 1	17,297	48	166	18	152	114	57	18
1898-99 ...	...	11,345	...	...	900	5 25	1 37	8,518	19 17	20,762	717	319	31	173	124	57	18
1899-1900...	...	13,460	...	...	1,400	2 7	5 10	8,973	20 1	23,899	1,342	269	48	177	125	57	18
1900-01 ...	...	12,234	...	...	3,068	1 33	7 30	9,730	20 21	25,032	1,554	267	67	212	125	57	19
1901-02 ...	...	15,641	...	...	3,256	3 2	8 22	11,029	22 0	29,926	1,261	348	72	245	116	60	20
1902-03 ...	...	19,645	...	...	3,500	0 2	10 35	11,577	23 19	34,722	988	437	39	257	117	60	23
1903-04 ...	...	22,722	...	...	2,650	1 11	4 13	13,299	25 11½	38,671	1,282	505	59	296	117	60	22
1904-05 ...	...	26,898	...	...	2,518	0 18	4 14	13,277	25 18½	42,693	1,145	598	56	295	116	58	22
1905-06 ...	...	20,756	...	...	3,333	1 0	3 8	13,694	27 36½	37,783	9,933	461	74	304	116	58	22
1906-07 ...	...	13,115	...	...	3,730	...	4 6	15,181	23 9½	32,026	3,493	291	83	337	86	50	22
1907-08 ...																	
1908-09 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	

TABLE XII.—*Stamps.*

Year.	Receipts from —			Total charges.
	Non-judicial.	Court-fee including copies.	All sources	
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91	14,035	27,602	41,775	501
1891-92	11,897	26,858	38,794	743
1892-93	12,684	27,072	39,829	470
1893-94	11,420	30,276	41,836	323
1894-95	13,607	21,237	34,909	627
1895-96	12,043	25,568	37,641	331
1896-97	10,777	22,370	33,158	301
1897-98	10,194	22,682	33,118	364
1898-99	9,701	24,414	34,644	412
1899-1900	9,089	25,007	34,601	772
1900-01	8,865	25,553	34,880	396*
1901-02	8,251	26,853	35,576	595
1902-03	8,790	25,112	34,350	774
1903-04	8,584	25,203	34,339	677
1904-05	7,365	20,468	28,301	680
1905-06	8,296	22,706	31,501	1,194
1906-07	6,868	23,315	30,679	618
1907-08	10,329	30,094	41,020	828
1908-09				
1909-10				
1910-11				
1911-12				
1912-13				

Table XIII.—*Income-tax.*

Year.	Total receipts.	Collected by companies. Assessees.	Collected by companies. Tax.	Profits of companies. Assessees.	Profits of companies. Tax.	Other sources, Part IV. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Other sources, Part IV. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Other sources, Part IV. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Other sources, Part IV. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Total charges.	Objections under Part IV. Number filed.	Objections under Part IV. Wholly or partly successful.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		
1890-91*	15,910	...	...	1	16	428	6,793	33	3,206	292	Not available.	
1891-92	16,475	...		2	43	556	8,635	40	3,433	370	Ditto.	
1892-93	17,733	...	...	2	58	622	9,421	39	3,768	471	Ditto.	
1893-94	18,747	...	...	2	60	643	10,215	47	4,007	756	296	59
1894-95	18,658	...	...	2	69	683	10,810	42	3,900	316	197	39
1895-96	18,815	...	...	1	35	682	11,031	51	4,185	228	196	58
1896-97	16,188	...	...	1	74	653	10,058	43	3,494	155	203	75
1897-98	15,308	...	...	1	96	595	9,222	38	3,691	168	213	75
1898-99	15,318	...	...	1	94	591	8,238	37	3,271	273	176	54
1899-1900	14,854	...	...	1	104	609	9,289	34	2,946	56	144	36
1900-01	15,616	...	...	1	107	599	9,478	35	2,871	295	202	61
1901-02	15,345	...	...	1	72	605	9,542	34	2,809	273	199	72
1902-03	14,653	...	...	1	260	599	9,287	37	2,997	95	147	57
1903-04	10,261	...	...	1	261	169	4,582	39	3,139	123	80	19
1904-05	10,289	...	...	1	261	172	4,649	39	3,284	60	48	18
1905-06	11,093	...	...	1	200	162	4,254	43	3,479	7	59	6
1906-07	10,917	...	...	...	...	167	4,475	41	3,193	104	73	16
1907-08	11,101	...	...	1	242	191	4,894	46	3,446	30	76	21
1908-09												
1909-10												
1910-11												
1911-12												
1912-13												

* Columns 7, 8, 9 and 10 do not include figures for tahsil Mahoba as they are not available for this year.

TABLE XIV—(concluded).—*Income-tax by Tahsils (Part IV only).*

Year.	Tahsil Mahoba. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Mahoba. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Mahoba. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Mahoba. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax	Year.	Tahsil Maudaha. Under Rs. 2,000 Assessees.	Tahsil Maudaha. Under Rs. 2,000 Tax.	Tahsil Maudaha. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Maudaha. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
1890-91 ...	80	1,247	3	203	1891-92 ...	82	1,148	4	388
1891-92 ...	106	1,589	3	203	1892-93 ...	76	972	5	348
1892-93 ...	123	1,859	5	392	1893-94 ...	87	1,347	5	389
1893-94 ...	126	1,961	3	381	1894-95 ...	82	1,148	5	390
1894-95 ...	131	2,004	6	445	1895-96 ...	89	1,344	5	392
1895-96 ...	119	1,806	2	209	1896-97 ...	90	1,484	6	523
1896-97 ...	92	1,369	2	261	1897-98 ...	111	1,542	6	471
1897-98 ...	79	1,171	2	311	1898-99 ...	108	1,517	6	523
1898-99 ...	78	1,087	2	234	1899-1900 ...	111	1,584	7	604
1899-1900 ...	73	1,034	2	193	1900-01 ...	108	1,517	6	523
1900-01 ...	70	970	1	182	1901-02 ...	93	1,448	5	389
1901-02 ...	75	997	1	180	1902-03 ...	89	1,444	7	522
1902-03 ...	22	576	1	138	1903-04 ...	82	1,307	5	348
1903-04 ...	26	679	1	178	1904-05 ...	24	713	3	240
1904-05 ...	26	627	2	230	1905-06 ...	27	786	3	251
1905-06 ...	25	651	3	292	1906-07 ...	28	769	4	293
1906-07 ...	40	976	6	491	1907-08 ...	28	777	4	277
1907-08 ...					1908-09 ...	29	804	4	258
1908-09 ...					1909-10 ...				
1909-10 ...					1910-11 ...				
1910-11 ...					1911-12 ..				
1911-12 ...					1912-13 ...				
1912-13 ...									

Table XV.—*District Board.*

Year.	Receipts. Education.	Receipts. Medical.	Receipts. Scientific, &c.	Receipts. Miscellaneous.	Receipts. Civil works.	Receipts. Pounds.	Receipts. Ferries.	Expenditure. Total expenditure.	Expenditure. Contributions to provincial funds.	Expenditure. General administration.	Expenditure. Education.	Expenditure. Medical.	Expenditure. Scientific, &c.	Expenditure. Miscellaneous.	Expenditure. Civil works.	Expenditure. Pounds.	Expenditure. Debt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	1,034	1,570	...	553	...	...	...	58,236	...	989	17,604	5,870	...	2,187	31,586	...	...
1891-92 ...	929	1,282	...	579	147	...	...	54,739	...	934	17,713	6,044	...	2,056	27,992	...	...
1892-93 ..	928	1,249	...	462	...	5,608	...	51,440	...	884	17,942	6,788	...	2,010	23,816	...	...
1893-94 ...	853	1,669	...	676	1	5,753	...	58,593	...	887	17,722	6,248	...	2,238	31,498	...	...
1894-95 ...	786	423	...	605	1	4,478	...	57,292	...	900	17,938	6,311	...	2,019	30,124	...	...
1895-96 ...	946	2,445	...	555	2,040	6,292	...	64,656	...	966	17,607	6,602	...	748	38,733	...	...
1896-97 ...	839	1,421	...	583	448	5,309	...	49,821	...	956	18,209	7,433	...	498	22,725	...	...
1897-98 ...	798	1,616	...	98	1,177	7,203	...	53,943	...	947	18,382	6,584	...	...	28,030	...	...
1898-99 ...	1,232	1,245	...	26	1,198	4,300	...	59,009	..	1,314	18,690	7,375	115	...	31,073	...	442
1899-1900 ...	1,292	1,358	...	20	2,304	*6,849		73,058	2,675	1,348	19,575	7,233	236	10	38,529	3,312	140
1900-01 ...	1,437	1,305	...	25	2,499	6,143	†1,692	66,586	...	1,981	19,562	8,444	341	6.	31,994	2,910	1,285
1901-02 ...	1,222	1,308	...	48	2,894	8,166	1,950	72,997	...	1,639	20,218	8,388	410	59	38,458	2,975	850
1902-03 ...	1,490	1,367	..	77	2,952	8,705	1,725	1,01,788	...	2,011	24,000	9,324	456	68	62,088	2,991	850
1903-04 ...	1,497	1,329	...	122	2,992	9,017	1,775	1,15,457	...	1,680	26,186	8,677	395	63	74,528	3,125	803
1904-05 ...	1,638	1,705	...	189	5,248	10,420	1,745	1,08,550	...	1,929	25,276	8,824	417	124	68,462	2,718	800
1905-06 ...	1,577	1,322	...	243	8,146	9,007	1,670	1,25,769	...	1,869	27,640	9,534	397	303	82,270	2,944	812
1906-07 ...	1,644	1,348	...	189	1,365	8,555	3,746	1,24,649	...	2,639	30,736	10,667	911	299	76,118	3,267	12
1907-08 ...																	
1908-09 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

* Formerly net receipts only were shown. From this year receipts and also expenditure are given.
† From this year the gross receipts from ferries were for the first time credited to the district board.

TABLE XVI.—*Distribution of police*, 1908.

Thana.	Sub-inspectors.	Head-constables.	Constables.	Municipal police.	Town police.	Rural police	Road police.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hamirpur ...	1	1	8	...	13	3	2
Ajnar ...	1	1	10	...	..	65	2
Kulpahar ...	1	1	10	...	16	42	...
Mahoba ...	2	1	10	23	...	61	10
Maudaha ...	2	1	8	...	10	84	10
Kabrai ...	1	1	9	...	...	53	4
Sumerpur ...	1	1	8	...	7	62	6
Srinagar ...	1	1	8	...	...	55	6
Kashipur ...	1	1	9	...	...	65	5
Majhgawan ...	1	1	8	...	...	73	...
Lalpura ...	1	1	7	...	...	54	8
Jalalpur ...	1	1	8	...	...	51	...
Bewar ...	1	1	8	...	...	75	4
Muskira ...	1	1	8	...	...	71	6
Rath ...	1	1	8	17	...	73	8
Kurara ...	1	1	8	...	...	55	2
Jaria ...	1	1	8	...	...	63	6
Panwari ...	1	1	8	...	...	73	4
OUTPOSTS.							
Sisolar ...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...
Chandaut ...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...
Kharela ...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...
Civil Reserve ...	6	10	64	...	...	...	...
Armed police ...	1	18	88	..	...	...	...
Total ...	27	48	312	40	46	1,078	83

N. B.—Outpost Kharela has in addition an armed police force of 1 head constable and 3 constables.

TABLE XVII.—*Education.*

Year.	Total.			Secondary education.			Primary education.		
	Schools and colleges.	Scholars.		Schools.	Scholars.		Schools.	Scholars.	
		Males.	Females.		Males.	Females		Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1896-97 ...	101	3,119	25	7	668	...	93	2,430	25
1897-98 ...	99	3,113	46	7	629	...	91	2,451	46
1898-99 ...	97	3,337	49	7	706	...	89	2,593	49
1899-1900 ...	98	3,941	39	7	823	...	90	3,071	39
1900-01 ...	98	3,723	31	7	833	...	90	2,854	31
1901-02 ...	90	3,947	35	7	919	...	82	2,988	35
1902-03 ...	123	4,913	27	7	968	...	116	3,945	27
1903-04 ...	124	4,929	64	7	998	...	117	3,931	64
1904-05 ...	128	4,267	23	7	648	...	121	3,619	23
1905-06 ...	127	4,499	66	7	864	...	120	3,635	66
1906-07 ...	127	4,404	137	7	941	...	120	3,463	137
1907-08 ...	137	5,335	325	8	612	113	129	4,723	212
1908-09 ...									
1909-10 ...									
1910-11 ...									
1911-12 ...									
1012-13 ...									
1913-14 ...									

List of Schools.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
Hamirpur.	Hamirpur ...	Hamirpur ...	Vernacular Middle.	132
	Sumerpur ...	Sumerpur ...	Ditto ...	41
	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Branch school ...	88
	Hamirpur ...	Kurara ...	Upper Primary ...	47
	Sumerpur ...	Ingotha ...	Ditto ...	40
	Ditto ..	Paunthia Buzurg,	Lower Primary ...	22
	Hamirpur ...	Patara ...	Ditto ...	20
	Sumerpur ...	Bidokhar ...	Ditto ...	24
	Hamirpur ...	Pandhari ...	Ditto ...	16
	Sumerpur ...	Chhani Buzurg ...	Ditto ...	22
	Hamirpur ...	Bhauli ...	Ditto ...	25
	Ditto ...	Jhalokhar ...	Ditto ...	11
	Sumerpur ...	Terha ...	Ditto ...	17
	Ditto ...	Kandaura ...	Ditto ...	19
	Ditto ...	Banki ...	Ditto ...	18
	Ditto ...	Pataura ...	Ditto ...	19
	Bitto ...	Pachkhura Buzurg.	Ditto ...	35
	Ditto ...	Sumerpur (Girls' school).	Ditto ...	15
	Ditto ...	Surauli Khurd ...	Aided school ...	15
	Hamirpur ...	Bachrauli ...	Ditto ..	17
Maudaha.	Maudaha ...	Maudaha ...	Vernacular Middle.	72
	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Branch schools ...	86
	Muskira ...	Muskira ...	Upper Primary...	47
	Ditto ...	Bewar ...	Ditto ...	72
	Ditto ...	Kharela ...	Ditto ...	72
	Mauadha ...	Artara ...	Ditto ...	43
	Muskira ...	Gahrauli ...	Ditto ...	74
	Ditto ...	Lodhipur Newada.	Lower Primary...	28
	Maudaha ...	Patanpur ...	Ditto ...	14
	Muskira ...	Bijehta ...	Ditto ...	16
	Maudaha ...	Bhamai ...	Ditto ...	5
	Ditto ...	Sisolar ...	Ditto ...	20
	Muskira ...	Umri ...	Ditto ...	25
	Ditto ...	Imilia ...	Ditto ...	20
	Ditto ...	Baswari ...	Ditto ..	20
	Maudha ...	Bhainsmari ...	Ditto ...	17
	Muskira ...	Bandhur Buzurg,	Ditto ...	3
	Ditto ...	Bihuni ...	Ditto ...	16
	Maudaha ...	Kamharia ...	Ditto ...	24
	Ditto ...	Sayar ...	Ditto ...	23
	Ditto ...	Naraich ...	Ditto ...	18
	Ditto ...	Bhulsi ...	Aided school ...	12
	Muskira ...	Pahari ...	Ditto ...	19
	Ditto ...	Husaina ...	Ditto ..	14
	Ditto ...	Kandhauli ...	Ditto ...	15
	Maudaha ...	Chhani Khurd ...	Ditto ...	14
	Muskira ...	Bewar ...	Aided Girls' school	9

List of Schools—(continued).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
Mahoba...	Mahoba ...	Mahoba ...	Middle school ...	131
		Srinagar ...	Upper Primary...	54
		Goindi ...	Ditto ...	51
		Kabrai ...	Ditto ...	55
		Sijahri ...	Lower Primary ...	20
		Chhikahra ...	Ditto ...	9
		Bhandra ...	Ditto ...	14
		Pahra ...	Ditto ...	11
		Paswara ...	Ditto ...	15
		Bilbai ...	Ditto ...	16
		Gahra ...	Ditto ...	26
		Surha ...	Ditto ...	17
		Ganj ...	Ditto ...	20
		Makarbai ...	Ditto ...	16
		Srinagar (Girls' school).	Ditto ...	19
		Pawa ...	Aided school ...	17
		Karipahari ...	Ditto ...	15
		Singhanpur Baghari.	Ditto ...	12
		Mahoba ...	Aided Girls' school.	14
		Ditto ...	Aided Christian Mission orphanage girls' school.	87
Kulpahar.	Kulpahar ...	Kulpahar ...	Middle School ...	42
		Ditto ...	Branch School ...	70
		Supa ...	Upper Primary ...	52
		Jaitp.r ...	Ditto ...	78
		Ajnar ...	Ditto ...	41
		Panwari ...	Ditto ...	91
		Sungra ...	Ditto ...	58
		Bendo ...	Lower Primary ...	29
		Kankua ...	Ditto ...	15
		Kilauwa ...	Ditto ...	20
		Budhwara ...	Ditto ...	20
		Nanaura ...	Ditto ...	23
		Pipra Muaf ...	Ditto ...	34
		Bijaipur ...	Ditto ...	26
		Bharwara ...	Ditto ...	22
		Nagaraghat ...	Ditto ...	20
		Mahuabandh ..	Ditto ...	22
		Karahra Kalan ...	Ditto ...	15
		Mundari ...	Ditto ...	24
		Ikthauhan ...	Ditto ...	19
		Gaurahri ...	Ditto ...	18
		Seonrhi ...	Aided School ...	20
		Nakra ...	Ditto ...	16
		Saunra ...	Ditto ...	13
		Dulara ...	Ditto ...	11
		Bagwaha ..	Ditto ...	13
		Phundua ...	Ditto ...	14

List of Schools—(concluded).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class of School.	Average attendance.
Kulpahar—(*concluded*).	Kulpahar—(*concluded*).	Dhawar ...	Aid School ..	16
		Burero ...	Ditto ...	17
		Panwari I ...	Aided Girls' School	11
		Panwari II ...	Ditto ...	11
Rath ...	Rath ...	Rath ...	Middle School ...	76
	Do. ...	Do. ...	Branch School ...	190
	Do. ...	Do. ...	Model Girls' School.	24
	Jalalpur .	Bilgaon ...	Upper Primary ...	22
	Rath ...	Khera Salajit ...	Ditto ..	44
	Do. ...	Nauranga ...	Ditto ...	32
	Jalalpur ...	Dhagwan ...	Ditto ...	30
	Ditto ...	Jalalpur ...	Ditto ...	50
	Rath ...	Majhgawan ...	Ditto ...	43
	Do. ...	Islampur ...	Lower Primary ...	21
	Do. ...	Aonta ...	Upper Primary ...	45
	Do. ...	Jarakhar ...	Ditto ...	42
	Do. ...	Gohand ...	Ditto ...	60
	Jalalpur ...	Chandaut ...	Lower Primary ...	23
	Rath ...	Rihonta ...	Ditto ...	16
	Do. ...	Jariya ...	Ditto ...	17
	Do. ...	Amund ...	Ditto ...	27
	Do. ...	Tola Rawat ...	Ditto ...	14
	Do. ...	Dhamna ...	Ditto ..	20
	Jalalpur ...	Puraini ...	Ditto ...	5
	Ditto ...	Kupra ...	Ditto ..	17
	Rath ...	Itailia ...	Ditto ...	15
	Jalalpur ...	Mamna ...	Ditto ...	29
	Rath ...	Anghaura .	Ditto ...	15
	Do. ...	Malehta ...	Ditto ...	21
	Jalalpur ...	Neoli bansa ...	Ditto ..	12
	Rath ...	Dhanauri ...	Aided School ...	26
	Do. ...	Itaura ...	Ditto ...	19
	Do. ...	Kachhra Kalan ...	Ditto ...	21
	Do. ...	Nahdaura ...	Ditto ...	22
	Do. ...	Umaria ...	Ditto ...	19
	Do. ...	Galiha ...	Ditto ...	19
	Do. ...	Bira ..	Ditto ...	18
	Do. ...	Sarsai ...	Ditto ...	19
	Jalalpur ...	Bankhar ..	Ditto ...	12
	Ditto ...	Jitkari ...	Ditto ...	12
	Rath ..	Kulenhda ...	Ditto ...	25
	Do. ...	Mawai ...	Ditto ...	18
	Do. ...	Rahank ...	Ditto ...	24
	Do. ...	Kaithi ...	Ditto ...	16
	Do. ...	Ballaon ...	Ditto ...	14
	Do. ...	Khera ...	Ditto ...	14
	Do. ...	Pahra ...	Ditto ...	19

ROADS, 1908.	Length.	
	Miles.	fur
A.—Provincial.		
1. Cawnpore, Hamirpur and Saugor road	27	0
2. Fatehpur, Banda and Saugor road	28	0
Total ...	55	0
B.—Local		
I.—First-class roads, metalled, bridged and drained throughout.		
1. Hamirpur station road	14	0
2. Kabrai railway station feeder road	2	0
3. Mahoba railway feeder road	3	4
4. Mahoba to Charkhari	6	0
5. Jaitpur railway feeder road	1	0
6. Maudaha to Muskira	1	4
7. Mahoba to Lauri	4	2
8. Kulpahar railway feeder road	2	4
9. Rath to Kulpahar	14	0
10. Hamirpur to Rath	12	0
Total ...	60	6
IIA.—Second-class roads, unmetalled, bridged and drained throughout.		
1. Jaitpur to Kulpahar	4	0
2. Railway feeder road to Kari Pahari railway station ...	0	3·6
3. Charkhari to Supa railway station	0	2·5
Total ...	4	6·1
IIB.—Second-class roads, unmetalled, bridged and partially drained.		
1. Banda to Sumerpur	19	0
2. Hamirpur to Kalpi	13	4
3. Rath to Panwari	13	0
4. Hamirpur to Rath (*vide* I-10)	37	0
5. Mahoba to Kulpahar	16	0
Total ...	98	4
III.—Fourth-class roads, unmetalled, banked, partially bridged and drained.		
1. Rath to Chandaut	22	4
2. Baswari to Sisolar	29	0
3. Rath to Mohanaghat	16	0
Total ...	67	4

ROADS, 1908—(*concluded*).	Length.	
	Miles.	fur.
IV.—Sixth-class roads, cleared only.		
1. Maudaha to Jalalpur	21	0
2. Maudaha to Kapsa	9	6
3. Rath to Jalalpur	23	0
4. Panwari to Lachhura	12	0
5. Rath to Kuchhechcha	11	0
6. Bewar to Kharela	21	0
7. Srinagar to Supa	13	0
8. Sumerpur to Pataura	8	4
9. Jhalokhar to Jalalpur	10	6
10. Maudaha to Ingotha	3	0
11. Maudaha to Naraich	2	4
12. Jalalpur to Kharela	22	4
13. Nowgong to Charkhari and to Tehra	27	0
14. Kulpahar to Panwari	13	4
15. Rath to Jaitpur	24	0
Total ...	222	4
GRAND TOTAL ...	509	0·1

FERRIES, 1908.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Village.	Name of ferry.	River	Management.	Income
Hamirpur.	Hamirpur	Hamirpur ...	Hamirpur ...	Jumua	Public Works Department.	Leased together Rs. 5,000.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Betwa	Ditto.	
Ditto	Ditto	Bhauli ...	Bhauli ..	Jumna	District Board.	Leased together Rs. 800.
Ditto	Ditto	Sikrorhi ...	Sikrorhi ...	Do.	Ditto ...	
Ditto	Sumerpur.	Pataura ...	Pataura ...	Do	Ditto ...	
Ditto	Ditto	Surauli Buzurg.	Surauli Buzurg	Do.	Ditto ...	Rs. 1,100
Ditto	Ditto	Sahorapur ...	Sahorapur ...	Betwa	Private.	
Ditto	Hamirpur	Barua	Barua ...	Jumna	Ditto.	
Ditto	Ditto	Bachhrauli ...	Bachhrauli ...	Do.	Ditto.	
Rath	Jalalpur	Chandaut ...	Chandaut ...	Betwa	Ditto.	

POST-OFFICES, 1908.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Name of office.	Class.	Management.
	Hamirpur ...	Hamirpur	Head office combined.	Imperial.
		Kurara	Branch office.	Ditto.
	Sumerpur .	Sumerpur	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Lalpura	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Maudaha ...	Maudaha	Sub-office ...	Ditto.
	Muskira ...	Muskira	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Maudaha ...	Sisolar	Branch office	Ditto.
	Muskira ...	Bewar	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Kharela	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Mahoba ...	Mahoba	Sub-office combined	Ditto.
		Kabrai	Branch office,	Ditto.
		Srinagar	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Kulpahar ...	Kulpahar	Sub-office ...	Ditto.
		Panwari	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Jaitpur	Branch office,	Ditto.
		Ajnar	Ditto ...	Ditto,
	Rath ...	Rath	Sub-office ...	Ditto.
		Jariya	Branch office,	Ditto.
		Majhgawan ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Jalalpur ...	Jalalpur	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Chandaut... ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Charkhari State.	Charkhari	Sub-office combined.	Ditto.

MARKETS, 1908.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Bazar.	Market days.
Hamirpur.	Hamirpur ...	Hamirpur	Tuesday and Saturday.
	Do. ...	Kurara	Sunday and Thursday.
	Sumerpur ...	Sumerpur	Wednesday and Saturday.
	Do. ...	Chhani Buzurg ...	Saturday.
Maudaha.	Maudaha ...	Maudaha	Tuesday and Saturday.
	Do. ...	Sisolar	Monday and Friday.
	Muskira ...	Kharela	Tuesday and Saturday.
	Do. ...	Gahrauli ...	Friday.
	Do. ...	Pahari Bhitari ...	Wednesday.
	Do. ...	Muskira	Sunday.
	Do. ...	Baswari	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Imilia	Monday.
	Do. ...	Umri	Monday.
	Do. ...	Bewar	Sunday.
Mahoba.	Mahoba ...	Bhatpura	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Mahoba	Friday.
	Do. ...	Ditto	Saturday.
	Do. ...	Kabrai	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Goindi	Monday.
Kulpahar.	Kulpahar ...	Jaitpur	Wednesday and Saturday.
	Do. ...	Lohenri	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Pipra	Sunday.
	Do. ...	Minaura	Thursday.
	Do. ...	Majhgawan ...	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Ajnar	Thursday.
	Do. ...	Tikaria Jaitpur ...	Monday.
	Do. ...	Supa	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Sungra	Sunday.
	Do. ...	Satari	Friday.
	Do. ...	Kulpahar	Monday and Thursday.
	Do. ...	Ganhrari	Friday.
	Do. ...	Bijaipur	Saturday.
	Do. ...	Kilauwa	Wednesday.
	Do. ...	Bharwara	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Panwari	Monday and Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Paharia	Wednesday.
	Do. ...	Chauka	Sunday.
	Do. ...	Kankua	Ditto.
	Do. ...	Teia	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Kashipur	Saturday.
	Do. ...	Dharwar	Wednesday.
	Do. ...	Bendo	Saturday.
	Do. ...	Seonrhi	Thursday.
	Do. ...	Nagaraghat ...	Tuesday and Saturday.
	Do. ...	Dulara	Thursday.
Rath.	Rath ...	Rehonta	Monday.
	Do. ...	Rahank	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Gohand	Saturday.
	Do. ...	Nahdaura	Friday.

MARKETS, 1908—(*concluded*).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Bazar.	Market days.
Rath.—(*concluded.*)	Rath ...	Rath	Sunday.
	Do. ...	Aonta	Thursday.
	Do. ...	Khera	Monday.
	Do. ...	Muskira khurd ...	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Majhgawan ...	Wednesday.
	Do. ..	Tola Khangaran ...	Thursday.
	Do. ...	Jarakhar	Tuesday.
	Do. ...	Basila	Friday.
	Do. ...	Kuchhechcha ...	Ditto.
	Jalalpur ...	Puraini	Thursday.

FAIRS, 1908.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Town or village.	Name of fair.	Date.	Average attendance.
Hamirpur.	Hamirpur.	Jhalokhar ...	Bhuinyan Rani.	Every Sunday ...	200
		Miranpur ...	Dunaya ...	Kartik Puranmashi.	1,000
		Patara ...	Kanu Pir ...	Kartik ...	250
		Do. ...	Jalbaba ...	Magh	250
		Do. ...	Mahabir ...	Aghan Puranmashi.	250
		Kurara ...	Bare Deo ...	Chait Sudi Naumi and Kuar Puranmashi.	200
		Shankarpur...	No name ...	Month of Pus ...	200
	Sumerpur.	Saunkhar ...	Manasar Nath	Kartik Puranmashi.	3,000
		Maihanan ...	Basnag ...	Ditto ...	2,000
		Bhauniyan ...	...	Pus Amawas ...	500
		Atraiya ...	...	Aghan Puranmashi.	200
		Deogaon ...	Kamikhya Devi.	Pus ditto ...	200
		Pataura ...	...	Aghan ditto ...	150
		Kuchhechcha.	Goshain Baba	Aghan Sudi Parwa.	100
		Chhani Buzurg.	Sidhh Rakh Baba.	Pus Puranmashi (commences).	10,000
		Bhakaul ...	Bhutani ...	Aghan Puranmashi.	200
		Paunthia ...	Jhanru Baba	Aghan Amawas ...	100
		Kalauli Tir.	Goshain Baba	Ditto ...	100
		Sumerpur ...	Dharmeshar Baba.	Aghan Amawas and Baisakh Amawas.	200
Rath.	Jalalpur.	Chandaut ...	Ram Lila ...	Pus Budi Tej to Dasmi.	400
		Bokhar ...	Do. ...	Pus Badi Astami to Puranmashi	400
		Indarpura ...	Bhuinyan Rani.	Chait Sudi Panchami.	200
		Kupra ...	Sardha Debi	Chait Sudi Astami,	600
		Puraini ...	Sidhh Baba...	Kartik Sudi Naumi	500
		Bhendi ...	Maheshuri Debi.	Chait Sudi Naumi and Dasmi.	4,000
	Rath ...	Chandwari ...	Dunaya ...	Kartik Sudi Puranmashi.	200

FAIRS, 1908 – (*continued*).

Tahsil.	Pargana	Town of village.	Name of fair.	Date.	Average attendance.
Rath—(*concld*).	Rath—(*concld*).	Khera Salajit	Ram Lila .	Aghan Sudi Astami to Puranmashi	800
		Bira ...	Chatur Bhuj Maharaj.	Chait Badi Amawas.	600
		Malehta ...	Sati Debi ...	Makar ki Sankrant.	200
		Rath Purab,	Ram Lila ...	Kuar Sudi Duj to Kartik Budi Tej.	2,000
		Rath Uttar...	Bare Pir ..	11th Rabi-us-sani ...	1,000
		Balloon	Dunaya ...	Kartik Sudi Duj ...	600
		Bara ...	Shiamla Debi	Asarh Sudi Puranmashi.	3,000
		Kuan Khera	Bhairon Baba.	Bhadon S di Chhath.	500
		Tunka ..	Mardan Ghaib.	Rabi-ul-awwal on Thursdays.	1,000
		Rauran ...	Sheoratri ...	Phagun Sudi Chaudas to Sudi Duj.	500
Kulpahar.	Kulpahar.	Mahob Kanth.	Siddh ...	Magh Sankrant ...	2,000
		Jhurat ...	Ram Lila ...	Aghan Puranmashi.	1,000 to 1,500
		Jaitpur ...	Krishn Lila.	Kartik Puranmashi.	3,000
		Rupnol .	Mahadeo ...	Ditto ...	1,000
		Kamalpura ...	Dhanush Jagya.	Aghan Sudi panchami.	1,000
		Supa ...	Krishn Lila.	Pus Budi panchami.	2,000
		Gaurahri ...	Ditto ...	Aghan Budi panchami.	1,000
		Kulpahar ...	Jalbihar ...	Bhadon Sudi Teras.	3,000
Mahoba.	Mahoba ..	Mahoba ...	Ram Lila ..	October 17th to 29th	1,000
		Ditto ...	Kajaliya ...	Sawan Puranmashi.	2,000
		Srinagar ...	Jaora ...	Kuar Sudi Naumi and Chait Naumi.	800
		Atraur ...	Dhanush Jagya.	Aghan Sudi panchami.	1,000
		Sijwaha ...	Dhanush Jagya.	Aghan Sudi Dasmi and Ekadashi.	2,000
		Pawa ...	Kans Lila ...	Aghan Sudi Puranmashi.	1,600
		Rahilia ...	Suraj Kund.	Kartik Puranmashi.	500
		Dandhat ...	...	Aghan Budi Chhat.	700

FAIRS, 1908—(*concluded*).

Tahsil	Pargana.	Town or village.	Name of fair.	Date.	Average attendance.
Mahoba—(*concld*).	Mahoba—(*concld*).	Sijahri ...	Ram Lila ...	January ...	600
		Ratauli ...	Siddhan ...	Khichrahi ...	200
		Makarbai ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	200
		Marchta ...	Ditto ...	Kartik Budi Duj ...	100
		Utiyan ...	Debi ...	Aghan Budi Duj ...	500
		Dharaun ...	Bindraban-baba.	Aghan ...	200
		Surha ...	Kanhaiya ...	Baisakh Sudi Puranmashi.	200
		Goindi ...	Siddhan and Dhanushjagya.	Aghan Sudi Puranmashi.	2,000
		Sachaura ...	Kalika.	Aghan Budi Amawas.	100
		Mahewa ...	Mohan Baba.	Aghan Sudi 7th ..	100
Maudaha.	Maudaha	Sisolar ...	Maharaja Baba.	Baisakh Puranmashi and Kartik Puranmashi.	500
		Tikri Buzurg.	Mansa Nath.	Baisakh Puranmashi and Kartik Puranmashi.	300
		Ratauli ...	Siddh Baba...	Aghan Sudi Ekadashi.	300
		Himauli ...	Bhao Miyan.	Basant Panchami ...	350
		Gadaria Khera	Siddh Baba...	Aghan Sudi Chauth.	300
		Maudaha ...	Kansa Lila ..	Bhadon Puranmashi.	3,000
	Muskira	Bhadan ...	...	Aghan Puranmashi.	400
		Bihuni Kalan	Ram Lila ...	Kartik ...	500
		Baswari ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	500
		Muskira ..	Ditto ...	Do. ...	300
		Alra Gaura,	Nagpanchami.	Nagpanchami ...	500
		Gahrauli ...	Ram Lila ..	Kartik ...	600
		Sauniyan ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	200
		Kharela ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	500
		Chhani ...	Gaughat ...	Khichrahi day ...	2,000

GAZETTEER OF HAMIRPUR.

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